

STARS AND STRIPES®

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Iraqi polling sites begin ballot count

Allawi asks countrymen to set aside differences for future

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U.S. soldiers stand guard near a convoy of ballots from a polling station in Jisr Diala on the outskirts of Baghdad on Monday. Iraqi and American forces escorted election officials with ballots and tally sheets to central collection points for tabulation of Sunday's landmark election.

AP

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thank your
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for today's
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Kuwait killings: An Army sergeant who faces a court-martial for killing two officers in a grenade attack in Kuwait was given further treatment for a sleep disorder, his defense lawyers told a judge in Fort Bragg, N.C., on Monday.

Sgt. Hasan Akbar of the 101st Airborne Division fell asleep during pretrial hearings in military court last year, causing a judge to order treatment for his sleep apnea. But defense lawyer Maj. David Combs said Akbar is still plagued by problems.

The military judge, Col. Stephen Henley, said he would take a recess at least every 90 minutes but denied Combs' request for a break after each witness.

Missing French reporter: France is still searching discreetly for a reporter and her Iraqi translator missing for nearly a month in Iraq, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said Monday.

Barnier said concerns for their safety prevent him from saying much about the disappearance of Florence Aubenais, of the daily newspaper Liberation, and Hussein Hamoun al-Saudi.

"The priority for me is the security of Florence Aubenais and her assistant. We are working with discretion," the minister said on Europe-1 radio. "The government, our services here (and) in Baghdad, are doing what they should and what they can so they are found."

States

Rhode Island nightclub fire: The lead singer for the 1980s rock band Great White has refused to answer allegations in civil suits filed against him by victims of the deadly nightclub fire that was sparked by the band's pyrotechnics.

In papers filed in U.S. District Court, Jack Russell's lawyers said he "faces a real possibility of criminal prosecution" for the 2003 fire that killed 100 people, and that therefore, he is asserting his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

Mike Healey, spokesman for Attorney General Patrick Lynch, told The Providence Journal for Monday's editions that "there is no open grand jury investigation going on" in connection with the fire at the Station nightclub in West Warwick.

Georgia ice storm: The thick blankets of ice that caused havoc on Georgia roadways and runways began slowly melting, aiding efforts to restore power to thousands of homes and businesses hit by a winter blast.

By Monday morning, about 57,000 homes and businesses in the state still were without power, compared with 102,000 who were without power Sunday afternoon.

All four runways at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport were operational again — a day after the airport had all runways closed for about an hour and never had more than two runways open.

New Jersey governor's race: U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine's quest for the governorship in 2005 apparently has gotten a boost with word that the man currently occupying the position won't challenge the deep-pocketed senator.

Acting Gov. Richard J. Codey announced Monday that he will skip a run for a full term as governor, a decision he based partly on concerns that he could not raise the money needed to challenge Corzine in the Democratic primary.

"God knows this has not been an easy decision for me to reach," Codey said. He endorsed Corzine, the only Democrat to formally enter the race.

Business

Italian airline expansion: The budget airline Ryanair said Monday that it would start



Remembering Johnny Carson: Bonnie Bamsay of Norfolk, Neb., right, looks at a program for a memorial honoring famed talk show host Johnny Carson, as Gene Kincanon looks on Sunday at the Carson Theatre in Norfolk. Carson didn't want a public memorial in Los Angeles, but people from the Nebraska town where the comedian was raised gathered at the high school auditorium that bears his name for a last chance to say goodbye. Far from a somber tribute, the event Sunday was mostly high-spirited and included a monologue, a jazz ensemble playing the "Tonight Show" theme and stage props such as a desk and guest chairs where those who had known Carson talked about him.

operating three Italian domestic routes in April.

The three new routes would connect Rome to Alghero in Sardinia, to Venice and to Verona in northeastern Italy, starting April 28, Ryanair said.

The airline said it would operate up to 10 daily flights for the three routes. It's the first time that the airline has launched domestic routes in Italy, and the move is seen as a challenge to Italian state-run carrier Alitalia.

World

War crimes tribunals: U.S. war crimes judges in The Hague, Netherlands, sentenced an ailing, 71-year-old Yugoslav general to eight years in prison Monday for failing to punish subordinates who carried out the deadly 1991 shelling of the Croatian town of Dubrovnik.



Strugar

But Gen. Pavle Strugar was acquitted of the more serious allegations of murder and ordering the shelling during the 1991-95 war in Croatia. The Dec. 6, 1991, attack killed two civilians and destroyed much of medieval Dubrovnik's protected Old City, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1979.

Strugar was convicted of attacking civilians and the intentional destruction of protected cultural monuments but was acquitted of all charges of personal involvement in the attack.

Wanted Serb general: One of the top four Serb generals sought by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for alleged atrocities committed in Kosovo will surrender voluntarily, but he needs more time to prepare his defense because of a serious illness, his lawyer said Monday.

Gen. Nebojsa Pavkovic, a Yugoslav army commander during the 1998-99 war in the province against independence-seeking Kosovo Albanians and

later his chief of staff, "wants to prepare a good defense" before he gives himself up to the tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, his lawyer Ljubisa Zivadinovic said.

Pavkovic, who had earlier refused to surrender, saying he would never "go to The Hague alive," insists on his innocence, Zivadinovic said. He could not specify exactly when Pavkovic could travel to The Hague, claiming his client is "seriously ill."

Muslim commander on trial: Bosnian Muslim commander Sefer Halilovic went on trial for murder at the U.N. Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, on Monday for the killings of dozens of Croat civilians during the war in Bosnia.

Halilovic, 53, is the highest-ranking Muslim army official to be tried for alleged crimes during the 1992-1995 conflict. He has been accused of senior responsibility for massacres in the villages of Grabovica and Uzdol, Bosnia, in 1993.

Asian bird flu deaths: A 10-year-old girl from southern Vietnam became the 12th person to die of bird flu in a month, health officials said Monday, as authorities took precautions to keep the disease from spreading during the upcoming Lunar New Year festivities.

The girl from Long An province died Sunday night after surviving about a week in critical condition on a respirator, said a doctor from Pediatrics Hospital Number One in Ho Chi Minh City.

A dozen people have died of bird flu in Vietnam since Dec. 30, raising concerns that the disease could be re-emerging after an outbreak last year spread to 10 Asian countries, forcing the slaughter of more than 100 million birds.

Deadly bus crash: Investigators sought to determine why a bus chartered for a Canadian hockey team swerved and rammed a parked tractor-trailer so hard that the bus split in half lengthwise, killing four people and injuring 19.

Visibility at the time of the Saturday afternoon wreck in western New York was good, and the highway was dry and clear, state police Maj. Steven White said Sunday.

White said the bus driver, Ryan Comfort of Ontario, told police that he hit something in the road before the crash, but investigators had not yet verified that.



Pavkovic

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Iraq begins counting ballots from historic vote

Iraqis urged to focus on future; 3 Marines die near Baghdad

BY JASON KEYSER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim leader called on his countrymen to set aside their differences Monday, while polling stations finished the first-phase count of millions of ballots from the weekend election that many Iraqis hope will usher in democracy and hasten the departure of 150,000 American troops.

From the counts by individual stations, local centers will prepare tally sheets and send them to Baghdad, where vote totals will be compiled, election Commission official Adel al-Lami said. Final results could take up to 10 days.

With turnout in the vote still unknown, concern was focused on participation by Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, amid fears that the group that drives the insurgency could grow ever more alienated.

Election commission officials said turnout in hard-line Sunni areas was better than some expected, though they cited no numbers. A U.S. diplomat warned that Sunni participation appeared "considerably lower" than that of other groups.

In his first news conference since the elections, Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi called on Iraqis to join together to build a society shattered by decades of war, tyranny, economic sanctions and military occupation.

"The terrorists now know that they cannot win," he said. "We are entering a new era of our history and all Iraqis — whether they voted or not — should stand side by side to build their future."

He promised to work to ensure that "the voice of all Iraqis is present in the coming government."

In new violence, three U.S. Marines were killed in fighting south of Baghdad on Monday, after two Marines were killed on election day. At least 44 people were killed in violence Sunday, when there were three suicide attacks, most near polling sites in Baghdad.



Election officials count ballots Sunday under the scrutiny of monitors after polling stations closed in Irbil, part of the Kurdish northern region of Iraq.

See Page 4 for more Iraq election coverage

The country was already focusing on goals almost as challenging as the election itself: forming a new governing coalition once the vote is known, then writing a constitution and winning trust.

The main Shiite clerical-backed faction in the race was already claiming a strong showing in the election. Officials of the United Iraqi Alliance said they expected to win at least 45 percent — and maybe even a slim outright majority — of seats in the 275-member National Assembly. Local officials of the parties with the alliance said the list swept some southern cities, winning 90 percent of the votes in Najaf and 80 percent in Basra.

The claims could not be confirmed, and the Alliance had been expected to run strong in the Shiite heartland. Going into the vote, the list headed by Allawi was also considered a main contender.

A powerful showing for the Alliance, which was endorsed by the Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, could make Sunnis even more reluctant to accept the re-

sults of the election — particularly if Sunni participation turns out to have been low.

Although turnout figures were unavailable, a U.S. diplomat briefing reporters on condition of anonymity said "good anecdotal information" indicated that "Sunni participation was considerably lower than participation by the other groups, especially in areas which have seen a great deal of violence."

The Iraqi Islamic Party, a leading Sunni faction, feels the vote was not inclusive "because an important segment of the Sunni Muslim community didn't take part," said party official Nasser Ayef al-Ani. Large, heavily Sunni sections of the country were unable to cast ballots, and in some places lack of security forced polling places to open late or not at all, officials said.

In neighboring Jordan, King Abdullah said in an interview with CNN on Monday that Sunni participation was "a lot lower than any of us hoped."

After an election ban on most

daytime driving, cars again wore their way down Baghdad's streets Monday. "Now I feel that Saddam is really gone," said Fatima Ibrahim, smiling as she headed home after voting in Irbil, in the Kurdish northern region. She was 14 and a bride of just three months when her husband, father and brother were rounded up in a campaign of ethnic cleansing under Saddam. None have ever been found.

It was still unclear if the successful vote would deal a significant blow to the insurgents or lead to a short-term rise in violence. The militants might need time to regroup after the spate of attacks they launched in the weeks before the vote.

Iraq's 275-member National Assembly, elected for an 11-month term, will draft a permanent constitution, and if the document is approved, Iraqis will vote for a permanent government in December.

If the document is rejected, Iraqis will repeat the whole process again.

Once results are in, it could take weeks of backroom deals before a

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,429 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,087 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The AP count includes four military civilians and is 18 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths, Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,291 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 978 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military and the State Department:

■ A Marine was killed Sunday in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ No identifications reported.

prime minister and government prepped by the new assembly. If that government can draw in the minority Sunni Arabs who partly shunned the election, the country could stabilize, hastening the day when 150,000 U.S. troops can exit.

Iraq's interior minister, Falah al-Najifi, told Britain's Channel 4 News he expected there would be no need for U.S. troops any longer than 18 months because that's when he anticipates Iraq's security forces will be trained well enough to handle the job.

But Allawi said recently that it was premature to know when Iraqi troops would be ready.

U.S. lawmakers praise Iraqi vote, discuss security

BY LIZ SIDOTI
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans and Democrats alike called the Iraq election a success on Monday, praising Iraqis for having the courage to embrace democracy despite attacks by insurgents.

Some next priority, Republicans said, must be fully training an Iraqi security force so that the country can protect its own fledgling government and the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq ultimately can return home. Some Democrats, however, called on the administration to outline an exit strategy.

Insurgents continued their assaults as Iraqis went to the polls Sunday, to elect a

To our readers

The Monday, Jan. 31, issue of Stars and Stripes was not printed in Iraq because of continuing transportation restrictions. Stars and Stripes regrets the inconvenience to our readers.

275-member National Assembly, seven months after Iraq's interim government took over from a U.S.-led coalition.

"We should salute the courage of Iraqi voters and of American military men and women and now see this mission through to the end, helping to preserve security while training Iraqis to defend themselves," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, a Republican.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, Republican chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said that while the U.S. can't withdraw troops now, as some Democrats have called for, security responsibilities must be given to Iraq as quickly as possible.

"The more they operate and respond to their own government, the stronger this elected civilian government will be," he

said.

But, he added, "creating a strong Iraqi military in which the leadership maintains the obedience of its forces and obeys the civilian government of Iraq is a very difficult challenge."

Rep. Ike Skelton, the ranking Democrat on that committee, said the training was going "disappointingly slow," but that added that the U.S. has "no choice but to continue."

As for U.S. troops, Skelton said: "I think there might be some light at the end of the tunnel on bringing a good many of them home," given that Iraqis have made a step toward putting their own government together.

World leaders tentatively welcome Iraqi vote

BY GEIR MOULSON
The Associated Press

BERLIN — World leaders said Monday that Iraqis handed a defeat to terrorism by voting in large numbers in a landmark weekend election, but their praise was tinged with concern over the low turnout among the Sunni Arab minority.

"These elections mark an important step in the political reconstruction of Iraq," French President Jacques Chirac told President Bush in a telephone call, spokesman Jerome Bonafant said. "The strategy of terrorist groups has partly failed."

Many concerned by low turnout among Sunni minority

said it believed, based on anecdotal information, that turnout among the estimated 14 million eligible voters appeared higher than the 57 percent that had been predicted, although it would be some time before any precise turnout figure was confirmed.

"The conditions in which the elections were held were difficult, to say the least," the ITAR-Tass news agency quoted Russian President Vladimir Putin as saying. "Nevertheless, it is a step in the right direction and a positive event."

chier of Germany — which, like France and Russia, opposed the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein but is supporting efforts to rebuild Iraq — said Iraqis "deserve great recognition for the will they have shown to shape the future of their country peacefully and democratically, despite massive intimidation."

Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, a staunch U.S. ally on Iraq, said he hoped the elections would help spread democracy in the Arab world.

"This vote can have a positive knock-on effect in all the other Arab countries where there is au-

thoritarian rule, where the situation of women is not one of liberty or dignity, where there are still many steps to make to emerge from the Middle Ages," Berlusconi said in a state radio interview.

Still, leaders worried about the low turnout among the Sunni Arab minority, who held a privileged position under Saddam Hussein, and some governments urged authorities to ensure Sunnis were included in the nation-building process.

Germany's Fischer noted that, once a new government is formed, the next move will be to draw up a new constitution.

"It is of decisive importance in this to integrate all political, ethnic and religious groups in Iraq," he said in a statement. "Neither violence nor refusing to talk offer a way out of the crisis — at the same time, no part of the population must be excluded from shaping the common fate of all Iraqis."

Polish Foreign Minister Adam Rotfeld said in Warsaw: "If I were in Iraq, I would offer the Iraqi authorities, I would offer Sunnis a large representation in the executive, bearing in mind that an internal rift is a threat to Iraq."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said he was encouraged by reports of a higher-than-expected turnout.

Under guard, counters tally expat ballots

BY SHAFIKA MATTAR
The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Vote counters gathered Monday in an enormous warehouse surrounded by blast walls and armed guards on the outskirts of Amman to begin sorting through ballots cast by Iraqi expatriates in Jordan.

Officials said 16,920 Iraqi expatriate ballots had been cast in Jordan through Saturday, the second of the three days of scheduled absentee voting. More than 186,000 Iraqi expatriates in 14 countries had voted during the first two days.

Final figures were expected to be released later Monday, but officials running the vote in Syria said that 90 percent of the nearly 15,000 voters registered there had cast ballots.

Six Iraqi vote counters from the International Organization for Migration, a Geneva-based group in charge of the expatriate voting, sat at a U-shaped table in the warehouse and began sorting through the ballots.

"Everything so far is going very smooth," said Monique De Groot, an IOM spokeswoman. "We're really happy that weekend polling happened without any significant incident."

Ballots from 11 voting centers in Jordan were taken to the warehouse after the end of voting Sunday.

"Every measure was taken to make sure they were transported in a secure way," De Groot said.

A handful of international monitors and representatives from Iraqi political parties were observing the count Monday.

Four observers from political parties protested they were not present for the opening of the ballot boxes. The protest was dismissed by an IOM counting officer, Alessandro Giono, who said other observers were present at the time, adding that it was not his "responsibility to wait for all of them."

"Although we do not question the honesty of the supervisors, (we) will report this incident to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq," said Aziz al-Okaily, an Iraqi observer. By an Abdul-Hussein al-Hadi, an independent candidate who was also an observer, was asked to leave campaign brochures and posters he was carrying outside the count room.

After the later vote, he objected to cell phones that IOM officials were using in the count room, saying the phones could possibly be used "to receive calls from some candidates."

IOM spokeswoman Astrid Meister said the results would be presented to the Iraqi electoral commission on Saturday.

Jordan, home to an estimated 180,000 Iraqi expatriates, had low turnout for voter registration. Only 20,166 Iraqis expatriates in Jordan registered to vote for the election.



An Iraqi election officer empties a ballot box for absentee votes at a counting center in Tehran, Iran, on Monday. The International Organization for Migration, which administered the absentee process, said about 265,000 Iraqi expatriate voters participated in the election.

Agency cites high absentee turnout

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS
The Associated Press

GENEVA — About 93 percent of the 280,000 Iraqi voters registered abroad cast absentee ballots in the country's election, the agency that organized the vote said Monday.

The Geneva-based International Organization for Migration said that 265,148 Iraqi expatriate voters went to the special polls over three days in 14 countries.

While participation of the registered voters was unusually high, those who registered in a special nine-day campaign that ended Jan. 25 represented only 23 percent of the estimated 1.2 million Iraqi expatriates eligible to vote.

The low registration figure was attributed partly to fears of violence and retribution from insurgents but also the fact that not all countries with large numbers of Iraqis, including Egypt, participated and many voters had to travel abroad to register and then again to vote.

"I have worked on many post-conflict out-of-country elections, but this is honestly the first time I have seen this level of emotion and

excitement among voters," said Peter Erben, who directed the project for IOM. Most recently he worked on the Afghanistan election.

Erben said IOM was "delighted" that the three days of polling outside Iraq went smoothly "and that so many expatriate Iraqis took this historic opportunity to vote."

He noted that Iraqis had turned out to vote in traditional dress and were dancing in the street.

"Many, many people (were) proudly holding up their inked finger as a sign of their freedom to choose their future leaders," Erben said.

In Germany, organizers said that about 95 percent of Iraqis who had registered to take part cast their ballots. Some 26,000 Iraqis — many of them Kurds — had registered in Germany.

Counting of the overseas vote has already begun in many of the 14 countries, IOM said. The agency will send the final results of the out-of-country count electronically to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq in Baghdad by Saturday.

EU ready to help

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union foreign affairs chief Javier Solana said Monday the Iraqi authorities can count on the support of the 25-nation EU after this weekend's elections highlighted the willingness to move toward a democratic Iraq.

"The Iraqi people 'are going to find the support of the European Union — no doubt about that — in order to see this process move on in the right direction,'" Solana said.

The EU's head office said on Friday that it wants to funnel \$260 million more in aid to Iraq this year to help with the country's reconstruction and increasing democracy.

U.S. reassures Turks

ANKARA, Turkey — A top U.S. defense official praised Iraqis Monday for showing up to vote despite death threats and reassured NATO ally Turkey that the United States supports Iraq's territorial integrity.

Turkey, like many of Iraq's neighbors, is extremely worried that Kurds in northern Iraq will use their increased influence to press for independence, which could inspire Kurdish minorities in neighboring countries.

Douglas J. Feith, the U.S. undersecretary of defense for policy and one of the driving forces behind the Bush administration's strategy for fighting the global war on terror, met with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul to discuss defense cooperation.

Child used in attack

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interior minister said Monday that insurgents used a handicapped child as one of the suicide bombers who launched attacks on election day.

Falsh al-Naqib told reporters in Baghdad that 38 attacks were carried out on polling stations in Iraq on Sunday and that one of the suicide bombings was carried out by a disabled child.

Al-Naqib gave no other details about the attack, but police at the scene of one the Baghdad blasts said the bomber appeared to have Down's Syndrome.

From The Associated Press

Insurgents claim downing of British C-130

Al-Jazeera shows video reportedly of missile attack

By OMAR SINAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents claimed on Monday to have shot down a British military plane north of Baghdad over the weekend, and Al-Jazeera television aired a videotape from guerrillas showing flaming wreckage of a plane. Britain said all 10 personnel on the flight were missing and presumed dead.

The toll would make it the deadliest single incident suffered by the British military in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The C-130 Hercules crashed about 25 miles north of Baghdad on Sunday, about a half hour after polls closed in Iraq's landmark election.

The video was issued by the "Green Brigade," a previously unknown arm of an Iraqi militant group — and its authenticity could not be confirmed.

It showed a finger pressing a button on a white box with wires, and then images of two missiles or rockets flying up into the air.

The video did not show any impact with a plane.

Instead, it cut to footage of people in street clothes walking through a plane's wreckage burning on the ground. It was not immediately possible to determine if the wreckage was that of the crashed C-130.

In London, officials at the Foreign Office said they were aware of the reported video, but offered no further comment.

A spokesman for al-Jazeera said the Green Brigade, from which the station received the video, claimed to be part of the 1920 Revolution Brigade of the National Islamic Resistance in

British plane crash

A British transport plane crashed north of Baghdad Sunday. Ten personnel onboard were presumed dead.



Source: Royal Air Force

Iraq — a group that first emerged in Iraq's Sunni Triangle in July of 2003.

Earlier, a different group, Ansar al-Islam, claimed in a Web statement that its fighters shot down the flight with a missile. It provided no evidence of the claim.

A spokesman for Britain's Ministry of Defense said earlier he could not confirm Ansar's claim. Capt. David Orwin, a British military spokesman in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, told the Press Association news agency that the crash site was secured by U.S. and British forces, who were investigating.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said nine British air force personnel and one soldier were missing and believed killed in the crash. One of the troops had joint British-Australian citizenship.

British C-130/JK

Mission: Movement of personnel and equipment, medevac
British C-130K/J (C1/C5)

Length: 97 feet, 9 inches
Wing span: 132 feet, 7 inches
Speed: 374/400 mph
Crew: 5-6/2-4 pilots
Max load: 45,000 pounds, 92 troops, or 64 paratroopers

British C-130K/J-30 (C3/C4)

Length: 112 feet, 9 inches
Max load: 45,000 pounds, 128 troops, or 92 paratroopers
*Model in crash not determined

AP

A U.S. military officer said earlier that wreckage was widely scattered over the site, and military expert Air Vice-Marshal Tony Mason said that may mean the Hercules was shot down.

The wide wreckage area "suggests impact in the air rather than the ground," Mason told the BBC. Prime Minister Tony Blair paid tribute to the casualties in a televised speech Sunday. "This country and the wider world will never forget them," Blair said.

Britain, America's top ally in the coalition, has 9,000 troops in Iraq, mostly in the south of the country near the city of Basra.

The British military has reported 76 deaths since the war started. The previous deadliest incident for the British came a few days into the invasion, on March 21, 2003, when eight British troops died with four American crewmembers in the crash of a U.S. helicopter in Kuwait.



Flags fly at half-staff Monday as a soldier from the 1st Battalion Scots patrols the perimeter of the British base in Abu al-Khasb, near the southern Iraqi city of Basra. A Royal Air Force C-130 Hercules crashed north of Baghdad on Sunday. All 10 aboard were presumed dead, the biggest single loss of British lives since the start of the Iraq war. British Prime Minister Tony Blair paid tribute to the crew Sunday.

Sharp increase seen in deaths of U.S. civilian workers in Iraq

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least 232 employees of private contractors have been killed in Iraq while working on U.S. military and reconstruction contracts, according to a quarterly report to Congress.

"Iraq's unsettled security environment continues to present grave risks for contractors and employees," said the report released Sunday by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

It cited Labor Department figures in reporting that U.S. contractor deaths rose 93 percent during the fourth quarter of 2004 and said attacks on sites, employees and construction projects averaged 22 per week during the quarterly reporting period, ending Jan. 5.

The claims were reported to the Labor Department under the Defense Base Act that requires all U.S. government contractors to acquire workers' compensation insurance for employees working in Iraq.

The IG report said the number of claims for workers missing more than four days of work because of injuries rose 61.8 percent in the fourth quarter, to a total of 728 claims.

Gitmo confinement challenges allowed

By GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled Monday that foreign terror suspects held in Cuba can challenge their confinement in U.S. courts and she criticized the Bush administration for holding hundreds of people without legal rights.

Judge Joyce Hens Green, handling claims filed by about 50 detainees at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, said the Supreme Court made clear last year that they have constitutional rights that lower courts should enforce.

"Although this nation unquestionably must take strong action under the leadership of the commander in chief to protect itself against enormous and unprecedented threats," she wrote, "that necessity cannot negate the existence of the most basic fundamental rights for which the people of this country have fought and died for well over 200 years."

Green also ruled that hearings set up by the government to determine if the prisoners are "enemy combatants" are unconstitutional. Those hearings, called Combatant Status Review Tribunals,

had been criticized by civil rights groups because detainees are not represented by lawyers and are not told of some of the evidence against them — including some information that the judge said may have been obtained by torture or coercion.

"Her opinion sends a message to the rest of the world that democracy is still here," said Barbara Olschansky, an attorney with the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, which is representing detainees.

The decision conflicts with a ruling two weeks ago by another federal judge in the same court who considered a similar lawsuit brought by a different group of detainees. U.S. District Judge Richard Leon found last year's Supreme Court ruling did not provide Guantanamo detainees the legal basis to try to win their freedom in American courts.

About 550 detainees are being held at the Navy base, accused of being enemy combatants. The prisoners, all men from 42 countries, were mainly swept up in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan.

Leon concluded that foreign citizens captured and detained outside the United States have no rights under the Constitution or international law.

Green flatly disagreed. She said detainees may fight their indefinite detentions as a violation of their constitutional due process rights. And some also may have claims that their rights were violated under the Geneva Convention, she said.

In addition, Green said that the government's definition of whom it can detain indefinitely may be too broad. She cited as an example given in an earlier court hearing — "a little old lady in Switzerland who writes a check to what she thinks is a charity that helps orphans in Afghanistan but [what] really is a front to finance al-Qaida activities."

Under the Military appeals process, detainees may challenge their status as enemy combatants at the review tribunals as well as at annual administrative hearings that determine whether they still pose a threat or have valuable intelligence.

In addition, detainees may be subject to military trials.

However, defendants in such cases have fewer legal rights than prisoners of war. U.S. District Judge James Robertson ruled in November that the trials deny basic legal rights and ordered the military to come up with a new procedure. The government is appealing.

“It was a privilege to have had the ability to know and serve with such gifted soldiers, leaders and great men.”

Capt. Jon Drake

82nd Engineer Battalion rear detachment commander



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Jon Drake, 82nd Engineer Battalion rear detachment commander, remembers six Vilseck soldiers who died last week in Iraq just weeks before they were to return to Germany.

Vilseck community honors fallen comrades

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — The Vilseck military community gathered Monday at the Vilseck Chapel to say farewell to six Task Force 2-2 Infantry soldiers who died in Iraq last week.

With many welcome home banners hung on fences along the post's main road — for some soldiers who have returned and others that are expected to return in February — nearly 400 community members filled the chapel to honor their fallen comrades.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Stevens, Sgt. Javier Marin, Sgt. Michael Carlson, Spc. Jesus Leon-Perez and Spc. Viktor Yolklin died when the Bradley fighting vehicle in which they were riding rolled over into a canal in Khan Bani Saad, Iraq, on Jan. 24. All were members of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Spc. Michael Luna died Jan. 27 in Muqadiyah, Iraq, from noncombat related injuries. Luna was assigned to 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment.

Capt. Jon Drake, now the rear detachment commander for 82nd Engineer Battalion, spoke about the five 2-2 Infantry soldiers whom he commanded while in Iraq last year.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Stevens

Stevens, 26, from Massachusetts, joined the Army in March 1998. He served as an infantry team leader, a Bradley fighting vehicle gunner and Bradley commander.

"His leadership style and charisma was unmatched," Drake said. "Stevens" was a wealth of information that even leaders and soldiers outside his company could turn to. (Stevens) No. 1 priority, as it is with all great NCOs, was the welfare of his soldiers."

Sgt. Javier Marin

Marin, 29, from Michigan and Texas, joined the Army in September 1999. He served as a rifleman, machine gunner, Bradley driver and infantry team leader.



Staff Sgt. Joseph Stevens



Sgt. Javier Marin



Sgt. Michael Carlson



Spc. Jesus Leon-Perez



Spc. Viktor Yolklin



Spc. Michael Luna

"Sgt. Javier Marin was a true silent professional," Drake said. "There were times when I had to order him to speak. Javier was always focused on his men and the mission."

"I was told that infantrymen can only be promoted by fellow infantrymen," he said. "I was not one to cause a stir, so I asked Javier who he wanted to promote him. And with his typical grin, he said: 'You sir.' I will always remember that day."

Sgt. Michael "Shrek" Carlson

Carlson, 22, grew up in St. Paul, Minn. He joined the Army in May 2001. He was a radio telephone operator, grenadier and machine gun operator.

"Sgt. Michael Carlson, also known as 'Shrek,' was the kind of guy that always brought humor into any situation," Drake

said. "Shrek would give you the shirt off his back if you were in need, as was the case in Buhruz during an insurgent uprising in June. After more than 24 hours of continuous combat operations, he was ... relieving soldiers for much needed breaks."

Spc. Jesus Leon-Perez

Perez, 20, was born in Mexico but grew up in Texas. He joined the Army in June 2003 and served as a Bradley driver.

"Jesus was young and it showed," Drake said. "But that did not stop him from completing any mission. He demanded perfection from himself and his peers and stood proud when his superiors complimented their efforts ..."

Spc. Viktor Yolklin

Yolklin, 24, was Ukrainian but grew up in

Minsk, Belarus. He later lived in Spring Branch, Texas. He joined the Army in January 2003. He was a combat vehicle driver and rifleman.

"Viktor was very proud of his heritage and quick to correct you if you called him Russian," Drake said. "Viktor was quiet and shy, but once he started talking about his family, he was bursting with pride and joy. He was the kind of soldier everyone wanted, quiet, did not complain, tough and carried out tasks with ease. Viktor, we miss you."

Spc. Michael Luna

Luna, 26 was born in Oxnard, Calif. He joined the Army in February 1999. He was an M1 tank driver and loader.

"The people I have talked to commented on (Luna's) lightheartedness and selflessness," said Capt. James Marks, 2-2 Infantry. Marks read a letter from some of the soldiers who worked with Luna in Iraq. One of them was addressed to Luna's wife, Stephanie, who was at the service Monday. "The soldiers of this company share this pain with you."

Finally, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Kauffman, 2-2 Infantry and 3rd Brigade Combat Team chaplain, spoke about how the community could cope with the loss of the six soldiers.

"There is an old German saying that says the minute a man is born he begins to die," Kauffman said. "We know that life is temporary, but when it comes to an end in large numbers like this ... at a time like this, the magnitude is too great. No one can be prepared for that, when we were so close to the end."

He said the tears of grief, memories of the soldiers and faith could help the community with the tragedy.

"If you knew these soldiers, continue to tell your stories about them," Kauffman said. "If you did not know them, listen to the stories."

"People of faith know that neither insurgents, nor deep waters nor tragic accidents are the end of the story."

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Marine is a real survivor

Former minor-leaguer has endured nine bombings without a scratch, but he's not pressing his luck

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

ASKAN, Iraq — The first time Lance Cpl. Tony Stevens was bombed in Iraq, a car packed with 155 mm shells exploded next to his Humvee just as a device containing five more shells detonated beneath it.

By bomb No. 9, the former baseball minor league shortstop had become a good luck-bad luck icon and the awe of his 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment patrolling the so-called "triangle of death" south of Baghdad.

With a couple of weeks remaining in his second tour of duty in Iraq, the 26-year-old might be counting the days a little more closely than most and has become a seasoned, battle-hardened veteran of the laws of physics.

"When you hear the explosion, that's actually good," Stevens said, pointing out that because sound travels relatively slowly, hearing the blast means you have survived it. "It means you're still in the game."

Stevens' deployment landed him in an area known for insurgents' use of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. Some of those are vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, or VBIEDs — military-speak for car bombs.

It is not unusual for Marine patrols on the two-lane roads through towns and gray-and-brown fields to encounter three or four bombs a day. Sometimes, there are more — many more.

Many Marines here have been bombed two or three times, and a couple seven or eight.

Stevens, at nine, wants to hold the record that no one wants to break.

His streak started Aug. 8. His unit was going to check on a mortar attack when it rolled next to one bomb and on top of a second.

Marines tended the wounded in what they later recalled was a field of undetonated bombs. "We were pretty much walking on top of them," Stevens says.

Bomb No. 2 was Aug. 9 — the next morning. That bomb was a freezer filled with five 155 mm shells and set off by a detonating cord left on the road. It

cost a fellow Marine some fingers.

Bomb No. 3 exploded on a security patrol. It injured a Marine riding in the turret of Stevens' vehicle.

That was October.

"October to Thanksgiving we were pretty much hitting one every time we went out," Stevens says.

Bomb No. 4 hit his vehicle. No wound.

Bomb No. 5 hit his vehicle, and sheared off a live power line overhead, sending it sparking on top of the neck collar of Stevens' flak jacket. He shows the ripped, burned material. "Two-in-one on that one," he says.

Bombs No. 6 through 9 hit his convoy.

In factory-armored Humvees — the vehicles of choice for patrols — Marines know they can survive all but the biggest bombs and the unluckiest hits. None has been killed in any of the bombings Stevens has survived. "It's not that we laugh about it, but we joke a lot, once we know it's all right," he says.

What saves his life, Stevens doesn't know. He doesn't do anything special. "Just pray. That's all you can do in this place."

What saves his spirits are the Internet and phones, put in not long ago at the Marines' forward operating base. "That way you can call the wife, say it's been an easy day, even though you've just got hit with an IED."

Home is Jacksonville, Fla. Stevens played for a minor league baseball team — the New Britain (Conn.) Rock Cats — before joining the military. He was also the Florida high school basketball player of year in 1997, said Rock Cats President William Dowling.

Despite all the bombings, Stevens says he would sign up again.

He speaks against a backdrop of explosions as his company sets off crater-making blasts, destroying a dirt road to keep it from being used by insurgents for election-day attacks.

"We came here and accomplished our mission," Stevens says. The triangle of death has seen attacks drop sharply. Local security forces have more confidence. Crowds are friendlier.

"Dw!" the Marine standing next to Stevens shouts. The man grabs a wrist slapped numb by a stinging chunk of dirt from the cratering blast a quarter-mile-plus away.

"I told you you're not to be around me," Stevens says, going after the hunched-over Marine. "How many days we got left?"



U.S. MARINES/AP

After being bombed nine times, Lance Cpl. Tony Stevens, 26, of Jacksonville, Fla., a former shortstop with the New Britain (Conn.) Rock Cats, has become the good luck-bad luck hero for his unit. His hard-hit 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment is based in Askan, Iraq, in the "triangle of death" south of Baghdad.

Marine battling mysterious illness gets new liver

BY BEN FOX

The Associated Press



Melany LeBlau soothes her husband, U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Chris LeBlau, in his bed Thursday at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif. LeBlau returned from Iraq in September 2004 and fell ill in December. He was diagnosed with an undetermined form of hepatitis and acute liver failure. He had a liver transplant Sunday, after he had slipped into a coma.

LOMA LINDA, Calif. — A U.S. Marine who returned from Iraq with a mysterious infection that left him on life support was fighting for his life early Monday after receiving a new liver.

Lance Cpl. Chris LeBlau had slipped into a coma by the time he received the transplant during a 12-hour operation Sunday. An unidentified donor from New Mexico was found late Saturday night.

"He is still in very critical condition, but the doctors were pleased with the procedure," said Sgt. Jennie Haskamp, spokeswoman for the Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

LeBlau's family, including his 21-year-old wife, Melany, were allowed a short visit after the surgery. Several of his commanding officers and fellow Marines huddled with his wife as they awaited the outcome.

The cause of the infection was unknown. LeBlau, 22, most likely caught a virus or was exposed to a toxin or chemical in Iraq or after his return, said Dr. Donald J. Hillebrand, a liver specialist.

Known by fellow Marines as "Blue," LeBlau was a rifleman in Iraq for seven months as part of a 2,200-man task force that lost 21 people and had nearly 200 wounded in action. His battalion commander, Lt. Col. Matt Lopez, said he wasn't aware of any other members of the unit with ailments similar to LeBlau's.

Melany LeBlau found comfort Sunday in photos of their wedding last fall, which took place shortly after LeBlau returned from Iraq.

In mid-December, LeBlau told his new wife he felt tired, a little under the weather. Still, he was strong enough to drive them home to Louisiana for the holidays from his base in Southern California, going for 36 hours straight.

"We kept telling him to go to a

doctor, but he said it was just a sinus infection," Melany LeBlau said. "Of course, we didn't think it was anything major."

Days later, he felt worse during the drive back to California.

They made it back to their home on the base, but he didn't get better.

On Jan. 10, she took him to a base emergency room, which sent him to Loma Linda University Medical Center, about 50 miles east of Los Angeles.

"He couldn't keep anything down, not even water," Melany LeBlau said.

The Marine was jaundiced and swelling as recently as Thursday, but could still answer questions, Hillebrand said. Within 24 hours, however, he was no longer coherent and had to be put on life support.

Without a new liver, his other organs would have started to fail, his doctor said.

"It's hard to see your husband in that situation," Melany LeBlau said. "You can't even describe the feeling."



RUSS RIZZO/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. Randall Twitchell, center, welcomes home a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 95th Military Police Battalion, at an award ceremony in Mannheim, Germany, on Saturday. Twitchell, the battalion's commander, was responsible for maintaining the major supply routes in Iraq with 1,500 troops. The battalion lost 11 soldiers in about 10 months, including nine deaths in combat scenarios.

'The lowest times, the hardest times'

Mannheim-based 95th MP Battalion returns home after sorrowful year in Iraq

BY RUSS RIZZO

Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — The day the 95th Military Police Battalion was handed control of main supply routes through Baghdad, word came of the group's first casualty.

A National Guard soldier attached to the Mannheim-based battalion died of a heart attack during physical training in Kuwait.

"It kind of set the tone," Maj. Dewayne McOsker said of the battalion's time downrange.

After nearly a year in Iraq, the battalion is returning home. Members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment returned last week, and the remaining two of 10 companies are expected back by mid-April.

It was a year that started and ended with the unexpected and it featured for too many bagpipe renditions of "Amazing Grace."

When Lt. Col. Randall Twitchell entered Iraq with the 95th MPs in March, things were relatively calm in and around Baghdad. So calm that he and others expected their mission to mirror the battalion's last deployment experience: Bosnia.

Their mission was to keep supplies flowing on major roads through Baghdad. To Twitchell, the battalion commander, the biggest challenge appeared to be logistics. The battalion of 1,500 soldiers from 10 companies, at its peak, was unusually large. And it was responsible for a large area of roads: from Convoy Support Center Scania, 100 miles southwest of Baghdad, to Balad, 40 miles north of Baghdad.

"It was supposed to be that the really heavy fighting had been done. Saddam's army had been destroyed," Twitchell said. "We weren't expecting all-out combat."

That changed in April, when the Mehdi Army, the Shiite force following Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, and other insurgents

11 soldiers lost

Eleven soldiers assigned to the 95th Military Police Battalion died during the unit's yearlong deployment to Iraq.

■ Sgt. William Normandy, 42, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, died of a heart attack during physical training March 15.

■ Sgt. 1st Class Wentz Shanabarger III, 33, of the 21st Military Police Company out of Fort Bragg, N.C., was ambushed in a convoy March 24.

■ Pfc. Jonathan Kephardt, 21, of the 230th Military Police Company out of Kaiserslautern, Germany, was attacked on patrol April 8.

■ Pfc. Jesse Bury, 21, of the 66th Military Police Company out of Fort Lewis, Wash., was attacked manning a checkpoint May 5.

■ Sgt. Rodney Murray, 28, of the 351st Military Police Company, out of Tampa, Fla., was involved in a traffic accident May 9.

■ Staff Sgt. Kevin Sheehan, 36, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, was attacked with a mortar May 25.

■ Sgt. Alan Bean Jr., 22, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, was attacked with a mortar May 25.

■ Sgt. Jamie Gray, 29, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery Regiment, Vermont Army National Guard, was attacked with an improvised explosive device June 7.

■ Staff Sgt. Arthur S. Mastrapa, 35, of the 351st Military Police Company, out of Tampa, Fla., was killed in a traffic accident June 16.

■ Sgt. Joseph Bekhe, 45, of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, out of Brooklyn, N.Y., was involved in a traffic accident Dec. 4.

■ Pfc. Joshua Ramsey, 19, of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 95th Military Police Battalion out of Mannheim, Germany, died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound Dec. 12.

mounted heavy attacks along the roads the 95th MPs controlled.

For Twitchell, April 11 opened his eyes to how different the mission would be from ones in the past. It was Easter Sunday, a day one typically thinks about "other things than war and bloodshed," said Twitchell, who had lost his first man in combat days earlier during a roadside ambush.

Around noon, Twitchell saw smoke billowing in the distance from where he stood at the Baghdad airport. A convoy was ambushed along Main Supply Route Tampa. Four fuel tankers were on fire and the Humvees with them were "completely wiped out," Twitchell said.

The 95th MPs arrived first to the scene, calling in two Apache

gunships to help fight off insurgents.

When one helicopter went down, killing both pilots, Twitchell and others secured the scene. Hours later, more fire rained down on MPs as they attempted to tow a Humvee from the site of the ambush, he said.

Twitchell's MPs survived Easter Sunday, but the realization had set in that combat would be a daily reality for them.

"It went from occasional attacks to heavy attacks with ferocity every day," Twitchell said. McOsker, second-in-command to Twitchell, put it another way. "It all hit fan," he said.

McOsker played "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipes at every memorial service held for 95th MP soldiers.

"I played a lot of bagpipes," McOsker said.

In 90 days, seven 95th MP soldiers had died — six in combat — and about 80 more had been wounded.

Twitchell had some close calls himself. In the heaviest attack he experienced, six rocket-propelled grenades came streaming at his Humvee, leaving trails of light and smoke over the hood and behind him, he said. He recalls the ping of bullets as they hit the doors and the windows.

"It doesn't sink in that a bullet was right by your temple until you stop and see the pockmarks," he said.

To protect large convoys, the 95th Military Police Battalion began sending small groups of Humvees ahead. Their job: draw enemy fire so that rapid responders could spot insurgents and take them out. In a year, they escorted 10,000 convoys, Twitchell said.

When they weren't patrolling roads, the 95th MPs set up roadside checkpoints for the Fallujah campaigns in April and November and helped establish Iraq's first highway patrol.

The combat took its toll on the battalion, said Twitchell, who appeared close to tears as he spoke about the loss of soldiers.

"Those were the lowest times, the hardest times," Twitchell said.

In December, the 95th MPs had mourned the loss of 10 soldiers and reported 165 wounded. They were prepared to go home when word came of yet another death: a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment died of a gunshot wound to the head, apparently self-inflicted.

The death, which is still under investigation, came as a shock to Twitchell. The soldier, Pfc. Joshua Ramsey, was a gunner who traveled in the Humvee in front of Twitchell everywhere the commander went.

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Seabees museum set to be relocated

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Seabee museum in California has everything military buffs could want to know about the construction experts' 63-year history, but since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, fewer people have been able to visit it.

"It's 200 yards inside the front gate at Fort Huachuca, so the really cuts down on who can visit now," said William C. Hilderbrand, president of the Seabee Historical Foundation. "Before 9/11, we had 25,000 to 30,000 visitors a year."

That number has dropped to less than 15,000 last year, and all visitors must now have military escorts. Hilderbrand said. The foundation hopes to fix that soon, relocating the museum just outside the fences as part of a \$12 million campaign to renovate and update the facility.

Already about \$2.5 million has been collected and another \$3 million promised for the project.

The museum, opened in 1977, houses the history of the Seabees as well as a variety of artifacts, including a 48-star American flag flown at Normandy Beach and a handwritten script for the John Wayne movie "The Fighting Seabees," and a Humvee used in Iraq.

Hilderbrand said other improvements planned for the museum include more exhibit space and better ventilation systems, to protect the thousands of artifacts the museum holds.

"The new one is going to be designed as a museum," he said. "Right now, we're basically in two warehouses. We've got wooden plaques, flags and uniforms; all of those things need some humidity control."

But reopening access to the general public will be the biggest change for museum workers, who haven't seen large crowds browsing the exhibits since security at all military bases was stepped up.

Hilderbrand said base officials have already set aside a new plot of land for the relocated museum, and will move the security fence to allow public access to the new building.

Others are working with foundation officials to continue to staff and maintain the facility once the new museum is completed.

The fund-raising keeps up at its current pace, Hilderbrand said, the foundation expects groundbreaking to take place as early as December.

About 18,000 sailors currently serve as Seabees, quick-response construction battalions. Hilderbrand said the museum is to "celebrate their significant contributions in contingency construction, disaster recovery and humanitarian assistance throughout history and around the world."

For more information, go to: www.seabee.org

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IN THE WORLD

Thais and tourists stand near a candlelight vigil Monday for tsunami victims at the Patong Beach in Phuket, Thailand. Patong Beach was one of many devastated areas struck by the Dec. 26 tsunami.



Official: Indonesians will need food aid for tsunami recovery

BY IRWAN FIRDAUS
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Nearly 800,000 people will need food aid in Indonesia's Aceh province in the aftermath of the devastating Dec. 26 tsunami, a leading U.N. official said Monday, as the country's death toll from the disaster jumped by 5,000 for the second day in a row.

Signaling the enduring deprivation five weeks after the catastrophe, the number of destitute being fed by the World Food Program in Aceh — now at 340,000 — was expected to soar as isolated villages are reached and the economic effects of the disaster take root.

"We are talking around 790,000 people" who will be in need of food assistance, WFP Aceh chief Claude Jibidar said.

It was the first time the WFP has put a figure on the number of people lacking food. Many in the province cannot sell cash crops due to disruption in trade networks, or be-

cause their food stocks have been shared with refugees.

Just over five weeks after the tsunami disaster, the overall death toll stood between 156,000 and 178,000 across 11 nations, with an estimated 26,500 to 142,000 missing, most of whom are presumed dead. The range in estimates reflects differing figures released by separate agencies in worst-hit Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Indonesia's National Disaster Relief Coordinating Board said Monday the country's death toll rose by 5,085 — from 103,025 to 108,238 — because additional bodies were found and buried. The agency announced a similar increase on Sunday.

Despite the expected rise in the number of people needing food aid, Jibidar said the WFP was confident it could take over logistical work currently being handled by foreign militaries as they scale down their presence in the coming weeks and months.

The biggest challenge will be continuing deliveries to western

towns and villages that are inaccessible by land because Sumatra island's main coastal road was ruined by the tsunami.

In other developments: ■ In Phuket, Thailand, international tourism officials were gathering Monday to work on ways of bringing back visitors and their needed cash to the region's resorts. Thousands in the region — including many foreign tourists — were swept away in the tsunami.

Thailand is to establish a tsunami museum to chronicle the plight of survivors and changes to the environment in areas devastated by the waves.

■ Acehese rebels said Monday they are willing to put their demand for secession on hold if Indonesia accepts a "face-saving" formula that would allow the tsunami-hit province to hold an independence referendum within five to 10 years.

The two sides held talks over the weekend, and both sides have said negotiations will resume in February.

Mont Blanc tunnel fire trial starts

BONNEVILLE, France — A long-awaited trial opened Monday into the Mont Blanc tunnel inferno of 1999, with 16 defendants facing manslaughter charges for the blaze that killed 39 people.

France relived the horror of the March 24, 1999,

blaze with television showing file footage of the charred wreckage of cars and trucks incinerated in the confines of the Alpine passage linking France and Italy.

The defendants face up to three years in prison as well as fines if convicted of manslaughter.

From The Associated Press

Lawyers seek war crimes charges for U.S. officials

BY MELISSA EDDY
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — A group of American human rights lawyers asked German prosecutors Monday to investigate U.S. Attorney General nominee Alberto Gonzales on allegations of war crimes as part of a requested probe of U.S. officials' actions in Iraq, the group said.

Attorneys from the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights filed a suit with German federal prosecutors last November charging that U.S. officials, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and former CIA director George Tenet, are responsible for acts of torture committed at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The attorneys said they chose Germany because it has legislation that allows for the prosecution of war crimes and human rights violations across national borders. Because the United States is not a member of the International Criminal Court, they could not take their case there.

Documents submitted Monday

detail how Gonzales' testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee "implicates him in the war crimes that were committed in Iraq," a group statement said.

The group also submitted an affidavit from a leading U.S. lawyer addressing the issue of primary jurisdiction, stating his views on why there was little chance a similar criminal investigation would be conducted in the United States.

"It's as strong a case as you can get," attorney Michael Ratner told New York.

The German Federal Prosecutors' office in Karlsruhe did not return phone calls for comment. German prosecutors have yet to open an official investigation into the original complaint and it was not clear if they would.



Gonzales

5 killed in Kuwait terror raid

BY DIANA ELIAS
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwaiti police stormed several suspected terror hideouts Monday, arresting a reputed terror leader and sparking a gunbattle that killed five people, including four of his followers, as a government crackdown on Islamic militants intensified, authorities said.

The fighting, in Mubarak Al Kabir, south of Kuwait City, also wounded three terror suspects and three police officers, officials said.

Three other suspects surrendered during the raid, including Amer Khalaf al-Enezi, a wanted militant leader, authorities said. Al-Enezi is a former mosque preacher described as a mentor to many young militants here.

The raid was the fourth over the past three weeks and reflected a new sense of urgency in the battle against militants here. Kuwait, a major ally of the United States, has been battling Islamic fundamentalists deeply opposed to the presence of U.S. forces in their country.

Kuwait beefed up security in December around vital infrastructure, including oil installations, following terror attacks in neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Clashes with militants on Jan. 10 and Jan. 15 killed two suspects and two police officers. On Sunday, security forces fought with militants in a residential district of Kuwait City in a clash that killed three people — a terrorist suspect, a police officer, and a Bahraini bystander.

Authorities have arrested more than 25 Kuwaiti and Saudi suspects since the Jan. 10 clashes. Seven detainees have been referred to prosecutors on suspicions of planning terrorist attacks or failing to report such plans to the police.

Since 2002, fundamentalists have carried out several attacks against Americans in Kuwait, killing one U.S. Marine and a civilian. Until this month, militants had only attacked the U.S. military and its contractors here, but the shootouts with Kuwaiti forces deeply affected many here.

Flu forces pope to nix appearances

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II has the flu, leading him to cancel scheduled audiences Monday, the Vatican said. It was the first time the pope skipped an audience due to illness since September 2003.

The frail 84-year-old pontiff came down with the illness over the weekend and doctors advised him to cut back on activities, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said. Vatican Radio described it as a mild case.

From The Associated Press

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EU restores diplomatic relations with Cuba

BY CONSTANT BRAND

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union foreign ministers agreed Monday to restore normal diplomatic relations with the Cuban government while pledging to increase contacts with critics of President Fidel Castro.

The decision, announced by Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, ends a freeze on high-level contacts imposed by the 25-nation bloc after Havana cracked down on dissidents in March 2003.

A statement approved by the ministers said the EU was willing to resume "a constructive dialogue with the Cuban authorities aimed at tangible results in the political, economic, human rights and cooperation sphere."

But the EU insisted it would continue to raise human rights issues and demanded

the "urgent" and "unconditional" release of all dissidents, including the 75 given prison terms of up to 28 years in the 2003 clampdown.

Asselborn said at a news conference the new policy would be reviewed in July.

"We highlighted the need to support a process leading to democratic pluralism, respect for human rights and basic freedoms," he said.

The EU stressed that any normalization of relations would not curtail its contacts with Cuban dissidents.

"The EU would develop more intense relations with the peaceful political opposition and broader layers of civil society in Cuba, through enhanced and more regular dialogue," he said.

Cuban authorities said earlier this month they had resumed formal ties with all of the EU's ambassadors in Havana. They had suspended relations in retaliation

for the EU's ban on high-level governmental visits and participation in cultural events in Cuba and the Europeans' decision to invite dissidents to embassy gatherings.

In November, the EU reviewed diplomatic sanctions against Cuba and Havana released 14 of 75 imprisoned dissidents.

Human Rights Watch urged the EU, however, not to fully normalize economic relations with Havana until Castro's regime releases more dissidents and introduces legal reforms.

"Cuba's recent release of some of the dissidents is a welcome step, but it does not signal a meaningful change in the government's repressive policies," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at the New York-based human rights watchdog.

In Prague, former Czech President Václav Havel also urged the EU to keep supporting Cuba's dissidents even as it restores diplomatic relations with Havana.

The former dissident said in an article published Monday in the daily newspaper *Hospodarske Noviny* that the newly expanded EU must "defend its freedoms and values, and not abandon them" by aligning itself with dictators.

The three could eventually have economic consequences since the 2003 dispute also saw the EU defer a request by Cuba to join the EU's trade and aid pact with African, Caribbean and Pacific nations, which could have granted easier access to European markets. Havana withdrew its request after the EU linked it to human rights improvements.

Cuba also refused to accept further assistance from the EU's aid budget, which had allocated \$11.3 million to the island in 2002.

The 25-nation EU is Cuba's biggest trading partner, with two-way commerce totaling \$2.09 billion in 2003.

Italians choosing to live with parents

The Associated Press

ROME — Italians growing weary of being stereotyped as overly dependent on their mothers got no help from government statistics showing more than 25 percent of Italians in their early 30s still live with their parents.

The state-run National Research Center said that between 1990 and 2000, the rate of people age 30-34 still living at home rose from 19 percent to 27 percent.

"That's the trend, there's no doubt that it would be the same

for the last few years as well," Adele Menniti, the center's official in charge of family studies, said Monday. According to the center,

Adele Menniti of the National Research Center

daughters: 36.5 percent compared to 18.1 percent. The figure appeared to perpetuate the cliché of Italian *mammoni*, or sons who depend on maternal care well into adulthood.

Italians' reluctance to leave home is often explained by difficulty finding a house on a job, or of maintaining the same standard of living assured by their parents. "In Italy one leaves home only when one gets married," Menniti said.

The research also showed that 90 percent of Italians age between 20-24 live at home, compared with 80 percent in 1990.

Syrian official pans Auschwitz ceremonies

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — A Syrian Cabinet minister has criticized the commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, accusing the West of double standards for failing to condemn Israel's actions against the Palestinians.

"A moral stand against the killing of people means [we] should not dispute the sufferings of some and focus on others," Buthaina Shaaban, minister of immigrant affairs, wrote in Monday's edition of the newspaper *As-Sharq Al-Awsat*, which is published in London and distributed across the Middle East.

Cabinet minister says nations in West should condemn Israel's actions against Palestinians

Shaaban, who was Syria's official spokeswoman before being promoted to the Cabinet in 2003, accused the West, the United States in particular, of ignoring what she called Israel's "racist" policies toward the Palestinians.

She referred to Israel's construction of a security barrier in the West Bank, its annexation of east Jerusalem, and its expulsion of Palestinians from their homes.

"The pledge that Auschwitz will never happen again should deter all those who entertain racism and hatred," she wrote.

Last week many nations

marked the Jan. 27, 1945, liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in southern Poland by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. The memorials took the form of religious services, candlelight vigils and forums focusing on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

In some countries, the anniversary is marked as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Some 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, are believed to have died in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Shaaban accused Americans and Europeans of racist discrimination against Arabs and Mus-

lims. "Crimes against Muslims in the United States have increased 17 times since Sept. 11," she wrote.

Her article did not give a source for this figure.

Shaaban also claimed, without giving evidence, that many European countries ban Muslims from performing their religious rites.

She referred to the bans on the Lebanese TV channel Al-Manar as an example of anti-Muslim racism.

In December, the United States and France banned broadcasts by Al-Manar, the television arm of the militant Hezbollah party. The U.S. State Department accused Al-Manar of inciting violence in the Middle East and listed it as a terrorist organization.

On new phone, features just a shake away

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Tired of pushing all those buttons on your cell phone? Japanese handsets slated to hit stores next month are designed to solve that problem: They respond to shakes, tilts and jiggles.

The mobile phones manufactured by Japanese electronics maker Sharp Corp. for Vodafone K.K., the Japan unit of the British mobile giant, come equipped with a tiny motion-control-sensor, a computer chip that recognizes and responds to movement.

Just jerk your cell phone in the air in a variety of patterns made of up to two simple moves — combining left, right or top, down movements — to program your phone in nine different ways to scroll or jump to e-mail or other features.

It takes a bit of practice. The sensor, made by Aichi Steel Corp., not only detects the direction toward which the cell phone is moving but also the speed and force with which it's being jerked around.

This makes for new kinds of gaming fun.

In "The House of the Dead," the mobile version of the Sega Corp. game, players can



A model shakes a newly unveiled Vodafone K.K. mobile phone during a Monday news conference in Tokyo. The new handsets come equipped with a tiny motion-control-sensor.

actually aim their cell phone in various directions like a gun to shoot the zombies who appear to be coming from all sides in the display.

Another is a golfing game from Taito Corp. Users swing the handset like a golf club, making a virtual ball pop around on a virtual course.

The handset is not giving a price or sales target for the handset, which will be sold only in Japan for now. It said it's working on other kinds of games for the Japanese handset using movement but did not give details.

The sensor can also be used to move the cursor by the tilting the phone toward the direction in which the cursor is intended to go.

The phone also doubles as an electronic musical instrument.

First select your favorite sound from a menu that includes clapping, tambourine, maracas, a whistle blow, yelps and other noises.

Start shaking. The sounds play in time to your moves. Vodafone is recommending that feature for karaoke and parties.

IN THE STATES

Former Baby Bell to buy Ma Bell for \$16 billion

BY JAY JORDEN
The Associated Press

DALLAS — SBC Communications Inc. has agreed to buy former parent AT&T Corp. for \$16 billion, creating one of the nation's largest communications companies and ending the independent run of a firm whose roots stretch back to the telephone's invention.

The decision followed late-night meetings by directors of SBC, the nation's second-biggest regional phone company, and the 120-year-old icon AT&T, which gave birth to SBC when its monopoly was broken up in 1984.

SBC spokesman Larry Solomon said documents in the acquisition were signed early Monday after AT&T's board of directors approved the deal. Board members of SBC approved the transaction on Sunday evening.

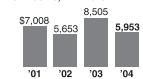
The acquisition is subject to approvals by shareholders, two federal agencies and at least 26 states, a

SBC Communications to buy AT&T

SBC Communications Inc. has agreed to acquire AT&T Corp. in a \$16 billion deal that would create the nation's largest communication company. The deal is subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals.

SBC Communications Inc.

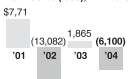
Net income, in millions



2004 Sales: \$40.8 billion

AT&T Corp.

Net income (loss), in millions



2004 Sales: \$30.5 billion

SOURCES: SBC Communications Inc.; AT&T Corp.

cumbersome process which prompted the companies to project the deal's completion may take 17 months, an unusually long wait.

San Antonio-based SBC has about 50 million local-telephone customers, mostly in the Midwest and South. It also is a 60 percent owner of Cingular Wireless, which serves more than 46 million wireless customers.

AT&T handled the nation's telephone calls before it was broken apart 21 years ago. The Bedminster, N.J.-based company has 24 million long-distance customers.

In their latest earnings reports for 2004, SBC reported \$40.8 billion in revenue while AT&T reported \$30.5 billion. The combined revenue total of \$71.3 billion would slightly surpass the \$71.28 billion reported for 2004 by

Verizon Communications Inc., the nation's biggest phone company.

The companies would not say how many jobs they expect will be cut as a result of the merger, but Rick Lindner, SBC's chief financial officer, said he envisions \$400 million to \$500 million in cost savings by 2009 by consolidating multiple operations from the two businesses.

Shareholders of AT&T, under terms of the agreement, will receive total consideration currently valued at \$19.71 per share, or about \$16 billion. From SBC, AT&T shareholders will receive 0.77942 shares of the Texas company's common stock for each AT&T common share, in an exchange ratio equating \$18.41 share based on SBC's closing stock price on Jan. 28. That amounts to about \$15 billion in stock, Solomon said.

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Secretary sworn in

WASHINGTON — Margaret Spellings, a loyal adviser to President Bush back to his days in Texas, was sworn in Monday as secretary of education and vowed to "stay the course" on the president's school reform agenda.

Spellings pointed out that she's the first mother of school-age children to lead the Education Department. Bush said that gives her a personal stake in the state of the nation's schools.

Clinton collapses

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton collapsed Monday during a speech on Social Security, moments after complaining about a stomach virus.

Colleen DiPirro, president of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, told WBBM radio that Clinton, 57, told the crowd she was feeling weak and had a stomach virus. A doctor at the private club where she collapsed asked about her symptoms and checked the senator's vital signs, said a Clinton aide.

From The Associated Press

Bush may face more trouble after State of the Union speech

BY TAMARA LYTLE
The Orlando Sentinel

WASHINGTON — President Bush will have no problem winning applause and accolades Wednesday when he delivers his State of the Union speech to Congress.

It's the next day that Bush needs to worry about — when the state of political reality sets in.

After a first term in which Bush got much of what he wanted from Congress, lawmakers and political scientists expect a different balance of power now. The reasons include the president's lame-duck status, restlessness by conservatives and the enormous skepticism greeting his attempts to overhaul Social Security.

"There are people in the House who feel like they were pulling a sled uphill at times, feeling like we had to re-elect the president," said Rep. Tom Feeney, R-Fla., of Bush's first four years. Now, Feeney says, "there is more of a sense in Congress it's our responsibility to reassess the congressional prerogative."

Bush will not appear on the ballot again, and Vice President Dick Cheney has ruled out running in four years. That means the Republicans who control Congress "don't see their destinies as closely tied to his anymore," said Karen Huft, political scientist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

And before long, Bush's agenda will have to compete with those of potential 2008 presidential contenders such as Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

During Bush's first term, he galvanized support for the war with Iraq and spearheaded sweeping,

controversial changes to civil liberties. He also restructured federal agencies aimed at fighting terrorism, pushed through a massive tax cut and won backing for his No Child Left Behind education reforms.

He had so much success with Congress, in fact, that he never once pulled out his veto pen. The last president to serve a whole term and never issue a veto was Martin Van Buren, from 1837-41.

But now Bush is pressing to re-amp Social Security and the tax code. He's also seeking billions more in war funding amid a ballooning federal deficit, as well as changes in immigration laws and tort reform. It is an agenda both ambitious and full of potential political land mines.

"The items he's asking for are so much bigger," said Rep. Rick Kellar, R-Fla. "It's a lot easier to carry a chair than a couch."

Bush has the benefit of a Republican-controlled Congress — 55 seats in the House and 32 in the Senate. But heading off filibusters in the Senate takes 60 votes, so Bush will at times need the support of moderate Democrats.

Bush will feel the heat not just from the left but from the right in his own party.

Some conservatives in Congress are unhappy that after winning re-election with strong support from the right for his stances on social issues, he is not pushing harder for a constitutional ban on gay marriages. Others are fed up with year after year of increases in spending on federal programs under Bush. And others are just eager to seize the moment for a conservative agenda because they have a Republican president and Congress.

Dems make pre-emptive rebuttal before address

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a pre-emptive strike before President Bush's State of the Union address, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid called on the administration Monday to outline an exit strategy for Iraq while his House counterpart vowed lasting opposition to Social Security cuts.

Reid, from Nevada, also said it would be a mistake to set a deadline for the withdrawal of American forces. "That's not a wise decision because it only empowers those who don't want us there," he said in a joint appearance with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

In remarks at the National Press Club, Reid said that Sunday's elections in Iraq marked "a first step in helping figure out a

way that the U.S. can get out of Iraq ... We have to figure out a way to remove ourselves from there with dignity."

Reid spoke dismissively of the reception Bush is likely to receive from GOP lawmakers on Wednesday night in the first State of the Union address of his second term. "You really don't have to have very many communications skills if you have a couple of hundred people who will jump to their feet when you recite the ABCs," she said.

"What the president says, the people will be held accountable for," he added.

Together, she and Reid sought to lay down markers on issues likely to dominate the congressional agenda this year — Iraq and the broader war on terror, as well as Social Security.

OPINION

Iraq election 'gives us all reason to hope'

The Dallas Morning News

Here is what did not happen in Iraq on Sunday: the mass murder of voters promised by insurgents.

Here is what did happen: Men and women who have lived under tyranny for as long as they can remember risked their very lives to vote.

Here is the unexpectedly good news: All things considered, it was a magnificent day in Iraq.

Iraqis had been warned last week by the cutthroat Abu Musab al-Zarqawi that they would pay with their own blood if they dared to vote. Said the terrorist chief, "We have declared a bitter war against the principle of democracy and all those who seek to enact it." The choice could hardly have been clearer: democracy or religious fascism. Defying the killers, most Iraqis had the courage to choose democracy.

What a beautiful thing.
Let's not kid ourselves: We've all got a long way to go in Iraq, and the road ahead is fraught with peril. Sunday's election was not an end in itself, but the means to a future Iraq that is governed democratically and ruled by law. Achieving that won't be easy.

Al-Zarqawi and his men will not now pick up their bombs and go home. Many minority Sunnis stayed away from the polls, either from pique or sheer fright, which will make it difficult for newly elected leaders to forge a working government. And given the region's religious and tribal tensions, and history of absolutist regimes, instituting any governing system with checks and balances, and guaranteed protection for minority rights, won't be easy. Civil war is still a real possibility.

Nevertheless, the Shiites, who will dominate the incoming government, have promised to include their recalcitrant Sunni counterparts in the writing of the country's permanent constitution, which is the task confronting the country's new rulers in advance of the National Assembly elections in December. And the popular enthusiasm on the streets from Baghdad to Basra suggests that maybe, just maybe, the Iraqi military will now have a government for which it's willing to fight.

For once in a very long time, the news from Iraq gives us all reason to hope. The struggle for a more perfect liberty never ends, but for now let us savor the moment and congratulate both the Iraqi people and the American soldiers who helped win for them the gift of that extraordinary thing in human history: the vote.



U.S. Army Spc. Luke Saunders — who is with the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion and is from Green Bay, Wis. — dances with Iraqi policemen as they celebrate the arrival of a convoy of ballots from a polling station to a central collection point in Baghdad on Monday. Iraqi and American forces escorted election officials, ballots and tally sheets to central collection points for tabulation of Sunday's landmark election.

With promise of success comes chance for failure

The Baltimore Sun

The apparent heavy turnout in [Sunday's] Iraqi elections was heartening to anyone who wishes to see that country back on its feet with an end both to violence and to armies of occupation. With no little courage, the Iraqi people showed a determination to take affairs into their own hands. Yet President Bush's declaration that the elections were a success is premature, at best. The turnout was a success; the elections won't be a success until it is clear what flows from them.

First, it is worth pointing out that a death toll of at least 40 makes this something other than a typical voting day. The insurgents failed to convulse the country in violence, but to call that, therefore, a success is setting the bar a little low. Second, the extent of the Sunni boycott is difficult to judge at this point; if it was widespread,

that poses a thorny problem: An Iraqi assembly can't pretend that the most disaffected 20 percent of the population simply doesn't exist. Those Iraqis who went to the polls were repudiating the insurgency,

but an unintended consequence of the election may be to launch a civil war in its stead.

Nonetheless, yesterday's election offers potentially significant opportunities to build a happier Iraq. Millions of people, despite threats of violence, turned out to be heard — and in so doing they presented a ringing affirmation of democracy. There lies the hope, and the trap.

The question, for those in charge in Bagh-



Post-election celebration notwithstanding, Monday was just another day in Iraq for this U.S. Army sniper as he scanned the horizon through his rifle scope during a raid on insurgent targets in Mosul. As jubilant Iraqis sifted through ballots, the issue of how and when the 150,000 American troops currently in Iraq depart is not yet resolved.

dad and in Washington, will be to figure out what those millions of people thought they were voting for. Some significant por-

tion saw casting a ballot as a way of bringing the U.S. occupation closer to an end. Some may be expecting a theocratic gov-

ernment; others, the reverse. The Kurds clearly expect to be left alone by the Shiite majority.

If the new Iraqi assembly can deliver on most of those expectations (some of which, of course, contradict others), the people's show of faith will have been reciprocated and Iraq will be well on its way to better times. An engaged and motivated majority can prevail over a disaffected minority — and can do so without the help of thousands of occupying troops.

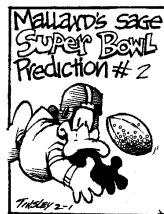
That's not to say that we expect President Bush to declare today that U.S. forces can withdraw, however optimistically he describes the election. But the balloting does hold out the possibility that Iraqis will, in fact, be able to assume control of their own fate, and, sooner rather than later, the Americans can come home.

None of this, though, will be easy, particularly as the violence is likely to continue for now. The experience of Eastern Europe following the collapse of communism suggests that nothing is as corrosive as the cynicism that sets in once a (sometimes naive) belief in the powers of democracy has been dashed. If the Iraqi people feel they have been let down in the months to come — by politics, by imams, by the Bush administration — they won't look back on this election as a success. And they'll be unlikely to have faith in another one.

The insurgents failed to convulse the country in violence, but to call that, therefore, a success is setting the bar a little low.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Car security system fails researchers' tests

BY BRIAN WITTE
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Researchers said Saturday they have found a way to crack the code used in millions of car keys, a development they said could allow thieves to bypass the security systems on newer car models.

The research team at Johns Hopkins University said it discovered that the "immobilizer" security system developed by Texas

Instruments could be cracked using a "relatively inexpensive electronic device" that acquires information hidden in the microchips that make the system work.

The radio-frequency security system being used in more than 150 million new Fords, Toyotas and Nissans involves a transponder chip embedded in the key and a reader inside the car. If the reader does not recognize the transponder, the car will not start, even if the key inserted in

the ignition is the correct one.

It's similar to the new gasoline purchase system in which a reader inside the gas pump is able to recognize a small key-chain tag when the tag is waved in front of it. The transaction is then charged to the tag owner's credit card.

Researchers said they were able to crack that code, too.

"We stole our own car, and we bought gas stealing from our own credit card," said Avi Rubin, a

professor of computer science at Johns Hopkins who led the research team.

Texas Instruments was recently given demonstrations of the team's code cracking capabilities, but the company maintains its system is secure.

Tony Sabetti, a business manager with Texas Instruments, said the hardware used to crack the codes is cumbersome, expensive and not practical for common thieves.

"I think the way in which it's presented as being so inexpensive to do and quick and all the rest of that is an exaggeration," Sabetti said. "And because of that, we believe the technology still is extremely secure for the applications that it's used in."

But Rubin said the code-breaking demonstrations illustrate that developers did not pay enough attention to security.

"I think the implications are that it sets us back about 10 years ago where we were with car security," Rubin said.

In the seven years the technology has been in use, Texas Instruments has never had a reported incident where a car has been stolen or a gasoline-purchasing tag has been duplicated, company spokesman Bill Allen said.

Road rage suspected in killing of boy, 14

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Police continued to search for a gunman Monday after a suspected road-rage shooting that left a 14-year-old boy dead and his stepfather wounded.

The shooting happened about 2 p.m. Sunday in a shopping center parking lot in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, about 3 miles west of downtown, police said.

Ruben Juarez, 14, was killed, and his stepfather, Gilbert Garza, 25, was treated at Methodist Dallas Medical Center and later released.

A 14-year-old friend of Ruben's was also in the family's sport-utility vehicle but was not injured.

Witnesses said the two vehicles were traveling in opposite directions when they nearly collided. Garza told Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW that he honked at the car, and the other driver honked back.

Dallas police Sgt. Gary Kirkpatrick said the gunman got out, pulled a rifle out of his car and fired a single shot. The bullet went through the driver's-side window, hit Garza, then struck Ruben.

The gunman then drove away. Witnesses said he was driving a silver, beige or champagne-colored car, police said. They believe the attacker's victims were random targets.

"It didn't sound like there was any yelling or screaming between them — it was cold and raining, and their windows were rolled up," Kirkpatrick said.

"He didn't deserve this," said the boy's mother, Mary Juarez.

"He was just a baby. They took the life of a child who didn't deserve this."



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Meat plant report

NC RALEIGH — Working conditions at three U.S. meat processing plants — in North Carolina, Nebraska and Arkansas — violate basic human rights, according to a Human Rights Watch report.

The report, released after a year of research, is based on interviews with employees and managers at a Nebraska Beef factory, a Tyson Foods chicken plant in Arkansas and the Smithfield Packing Co. pork plant in Tar Heel, about 100 miles south of Raleigh. It says workers at all three plants are frequently injured, then refused medical care or fired.

The report found that repetitive motion injuries are universal in the industry; unsanitary conditions sometimes leave workers covered in animal urine and feces; and attempts to unionize are sometimes violently quashed.

The American Meat Institute called the report "way off the mark."

Hidden danger in tea?

MO ST. LOUIS — Instant tea may be a source of harmful levels of fluoride that can lead to bone pain, researchers discovered after they looked into the case of a woman who drank one to two gallons of super-strength tea daily.

Scientists say it's not the country's biggest dietary problem.

But it does make the point "all things in moderation," said lead researcher Dr. Michael Whyte of the Washington University School of Medicine.

He said the study tested 10 brands of instant tea at regular-strength levels in fluoride-free water; they didn't test brewed or bottled tea. Fluoride levels ranged from 1.0 to 6.5 parts per million. The maximum level allowed in drinking water by the Environmental Protection Agency is 4 ppm.

Record-high immigration

NY NEW YORK — A new report from the city says New York's immigrant population is at a record high, represents a significant percentage of the city's workforce and has offset population losses over recent decades.

The 265-page analysis titled "The Newest New Yorkers 2000: Immigrant New York in the New Millennium," set to be released by the City Planning Department, shows that the immigrant population is larger than ever before, despite the city being long known as a haven for newcomers to the country. The New York Times reported.

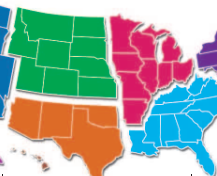
Bat bill passes House

VA RICHMOND — A bill recognizing the Virginia big-eared bat as the official state bat swooped through the House of Delegates with no debate.

The House voted 87-8 to pass Del. Jackie Stump's bill and send it to the Senate.

Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus is the scientific name of the endangered species, which is found only in a few caves in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Stump, D-Buchanan, said recognition of the big-eared bat would help educate the public about Vir-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ginia's caves and the positive environmental role played by the insect-eating flying mammals that inhabit them.

Selling home to avoid jail

NH NASHUA — A Hollis man has agreed to sell his house to avoid going to jail.

Peter Campin, 38, was charged with burglary for a noisy break-in into a neighbor's home but pleaded guilty to criminal trespass and agreed to leave his house and sell it within 10 days.

Prosecutors said a highly intoxicated Campin jumped from his second-floor window, crashed through his neighbor's door across the street and started screaming and banging his chest.

"The homeowner had a gun," Police Chief Richard Darling said.

"A couple of shots went off, and the homeowner was able to get him down on the ground until police arrived."

Drug tests for officials

NM SANTA FE — A lawmaker wants New Mexico to require yearly random drug testing of all its elected officials, from school board members to U.S. senators, with results posted on the Internet.

"I think we need to remember that we are public servants. We're

not royalty," Republican state Sen. Steve Komadina said.

His bill was prompted by last year's drug-related arrests of a prominent New Mexico judge and a public utilities commissioner.

Tim Storey, a senior fellow at the National Conference of State Legislatures, said he knew of no other state that requires such testing.

Visa fraud scheme

FL MIAMI — A former employee at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City was sentenced for conspiring with a Colombian couple in a visa bribery scheme that allowed about 180 cartel members and leftist guerrillas to receive documented visas.

Julietta Quiroz, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Nicaragua, received one year and one day in prison, along with two years of supervised release, community service and fines.

Nextel's too-tall tower

VT ST. JOHNSBURY — A cellular phone company must lower its proposed communications tower in Waterford, the District 7 environmental board has said.

Members of the board told Nextel Communications Inc. to shorten the proposed 140-foot tower if it wants to gain ATC 250 approval.

"One of the things we found out with the original towers, was that between 70 and 120 feet, there wasn't much of a [signal propagation] loss," said District 7 coordinator Charles Gallagher, referring to applications submitted by ATC Realty a couple of years ago. "At the end of the day, they accepted lower towers."

Vegas stench solved

NV LAS VEGAS — Pipe-roboting robots fitted with cameras have discovered the source of the awful smell that has plagued downtown Las Vegas for a decade.

Construction debris that got backed up in the storm drain system trapped stagnant water and bits of rotting trash, creating what has been called the "Stench of Fremont Street," city officials said.

"It was critical that we find this for business and tourism," Mayor Oscar Goodman said. "This smell turns people off, including me."

After years of trying to cover up the stink with deodorizer, city officials conducted a \$97,000 investigation to track down the source of the smell. Now they have to figure out how best to remove the trapped bits of concrete, gravel and trash.

Can goes with robber

WV MARTINSBURG — Maybe he needed something to hold the loot.

A man who broke into a gas station and convenience store took the trash can when he left, said Lt. K.C. Bohrer of the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department.

Surveillance cameras in ROC's gas station show the man entering the rear of the store, then stealing cash, cartons of cigarettes, soda and the trash can, Bohrer said.

Deputies have released a still image from the surveillance video to media in hopes the public can help identify him.



Ella Jane, 2, takes a bite of the fresh snow in Blowing Rock, N.C.

Tasting the snow



Push is on

From left, Ryan Turner, Stephen Janssen, Angelo Bruno and Bowman Guhan, all from Mobile, Ala., make a snowman on the Mall in Washington.



Holiday festivities

Peagan Lin performs "The Light with Blossom Flowers" during a celebration of the Chinese New Year at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Mo.



Mardi Gras time

Norma Klecka wears a mask during the 11th annual Z Krewé procession during Mardi Gras in Galveston, Texas.



Having a ball

Allison Gold, 6, pushes a large ball in an obstacle course in Kirtland, Ohio, as part of the Lake Metroparks Winterfest at Chapin Forest Pine Lodge.



Fastest cart wins

Competitors in the Idiotarod make it to the finish line pushing their shopping cart in New York. In a spoof of the famous Alaskan Iditarod, the Idiotarod pitted dozens of teams of runners who must push and pull a shopping cart from Brooklyn to the Lower East Side in Manhattan.



She's a winner

Dremer, a 10-month-old chihuahua, stands in her pen behind her ribbon at the Golden Gate Kennel Club dog show in San Francisco.



Off to the races

Keith Self and his four Siberian Huskies start the 4-dog Siberian class sled dog race at Punderson State Park in Newbury Township, Ohio.

Firefighters suspended

CA SACRAMENTO — Four firefighters have been suspended for participating in a series of sexual encounters with each other while on duty.

The four, who were placed on paid administrative leave, are the subjects of an internal investigation for what Fire Chief Julius Cherry described as "on-duty consensual sexual misconduct" during their 24-hour work shifts.

The three separate incidents at the fire station involved a male captain, two male firefighters and a female firefighter. One of the men would stand lookout while the other three engaged in sex acts, fire officials said.

Teen dies of cancer

FL BELL — A 17-year-old girl who was honored by Gov. Jeb Bush when she fulfilled her dream by graduating from high school despite a long, painful battle with brain cancer has died, her guidance counselor said.

Caitlin Huggins died at her home, Dana Jones said. Huggins was diagnosed with cancer in 2001, the summer before her freshman year. There were periods of remission, but three new tumors were discovered the day before this school year began and there was nothing her doctor could do to save her life. Doctors in September gave her a month to live.

Landlord jailed for attack

NY NEW YORK — A Queens landlord was sentenced to 4½ years to life in prison after being convicted of hiring hit men to force two brothers out of a rent-controlled apartment.

Juan Basagotia, 50, was accused of paying two tenants in the building \$2,500 to beat the brothers and attack them with a knife in March 2003. He allegedly wanted to oust the victims from their three-bedroom, \$400-a-month apartment in the Elmhurst section of Queens so he could raise the rent to \$1,500.

The brothers, William and David Lavery, suffered disfiguring injuries in the attack but survived. They attended Basagotia's sentencing in State Supreme Court in Queens.

The two attackers, David Robles and Danny Machuca, were found guilty in separate trials last year.

Wind farm concerns

AR FLAGSTAFF — A proposed wind farm could supply enough electricity to power two-thirds of the homes in Flagstaff, but county planners aren't sold on the aesthetics of the project. The biggest concern is how the 405-foot-tall windmills would obstruct views of the San Francisco Peaks. The wind farm is planned for land leased from the Hopi Tribe and private landowners about 35 miles east of Flagstaff.

School name rethought

GA CANTON — A school board voted to halt plans to name a new high school after a Confederate-era governor, under pressure from students and parents who said they did not want to honor someone who supported slavery.

The Cherokee County board sent the matter of naming the

school back to a committee of faculty and students, which already has said it wants to name the school Creekland High.

The board previously had voted to name the high school after former Gov. Joseph E. Brown, a four-term governor from 1857-65 who made his home in Cherokee County.

"The community felt disenfranchised and the board listened," Mike Chapman, the school board chairman, said after the latest vote.

He said the committee will come back to the board with a new recommendation for a school name. The board is expected to vote again Feb. 17.

Students wearing T-shirts saying "No to Joe" continued their campaign against naming the school for Brown.

Family coverage request

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Brad Henry says he doesn't know if the state can afford a request by the Oklahoma Education Association that the state pay at least part of the health insurance coverage for teachers' spouses and dependents. Beginning this year, the state is paying 100 percent of teachers' individual premiums, \$314 a month. A teacher with a spouse and two children pays about \$700 a month for health insurance.

Climber recounts ordeal

CO DENVER — Jamn Camp tied a thermal top around his bloody head and wriggled for miles with broken limbs to survive in the frigid terrain.

"There was so much blood, I didn't know how long I'd be conscious. I thought I had 20 to 30 minutes left," said the climber, wheeled from intensive care to a news conference.

The bandaged 27-year-old recounted the tale of his fall on Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Without a helmet, Camp plummeted 100 feet. The fall left him with broken wrists, a broken kneecap and punctures to his head.

"I don't remember losing my balance," he said. "I think I was hit by falling ice. I remember swinging, trying to get a hold of things. I couldn't."

Teen attacks woman, 70

VA COLONIAL BEACH — A 70-year-old woman remained hospitalized three days after police say she was stabbed repeatedly in her home by a 15-year-old neighborhood acquaintance.

The woman was in critical but stable condition at Inova Fairfax Hospital after suffering from a collapsed lung and torn intestines, Police Chief Courtland Turner said. The woman's spleen was also removed, he said.

The woman, who lives alone, let the teen into her house after he offered to check on her frozen water pipes, police said. Once inside, he attacked her with a long-bladed butcher's knife.

The assailant, who lives in the woman's neighborhood, apparently made a sexual advance toward the woman and was rejected, which may have prompted the attack, Turner said.

Stories and photos from wire services



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FACES

Eastwood wins Directors Guild award

Clint Eastwood was declared filmmaker of the year by his peers on Saturday, winning the Directors Guild of America honor for the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby."

The award, held in Beverly Hills, Calif., solidifies Eastwood's prospects to win his second best-director prize at the Academy Awards on Feb. 27. He previously won the Academy Award and guild prize for 1992's "Unforgiven," which also was that year's best-picture champ at the Oscars.

"Million Dollar Baby" stars Eastwood as a curmudgeonly boxing trainer and reluctant mentor to a scrappy fighter (Hilary Swank) who becomes a champion in the ring before her life takes a tragic turn.



Eastwood

Hilton's posse attends masked gala

Hotel chain heiress Paris Hilton attended the San Francisco Ballet's masked ball gala with her parents and an Entertainment Tonight film crew.

The "The Simple Life" star was draped in a necklace of cascading golden South Sea pearls and diamonds designed by San Francisco jeweler Rosalina.

The reality TV series, which started its third season last month, features Hilton and co-star Nicole Richie working in a series of menial jobs.

Other stars attending the event included actors Sean Hayes of NBC's "Will and Grace," Hector Elizondo and television and film director Garry Marshall.

Rock hides out in White House

Comedian Chris Rock says he spent an impromptu tour of the White House hiding from the president.

Rock was filming a movie in Washington a year ago when, during a break, he walked past the White House.

"A black security guard spotted me and took me into the White House," Rock said. "I was walking around the whole White House. It was weird because (President) Bush was there and they were hiding me from Bush."

The 39-year-old actor, who lost the Oscars for the first time on Feb. 27, giving him the biggest audience of his career to date.

Beyoncé singer starts clothing line

Beyoncé is planning a new release — her own fashion collection.

The Destiny's Child singer has signed a licensing agreement with the Tarrant Apparel Group to produce a line of clothing for young women. She named the House of Dereon collection after her grandmother Agnes Dereon, who worked as a seamstress.

The first fashions will be in stores this fall, and the look will be "a mix of vintage things with contemporary things. It'll be fun with denim, classic with street," Beyoncé said.

The collection also will include party dresses, sweaters and tailored jackets.

"I have pretty broad taste. I've been all over the world — thank God I've had the chance to do that," the 23-year-old said.



Beyoncé

Osmond's radio show takes the cut

Marie Osmond's five-hour radio show has been canceled after less than a year on the air.

"Marie & Friends," which started in February 2004, featured adult contemporary music and conversation geared toward women. It was Osmond's first foray into radio.

It was dropped by Jones Radio Network, but Salt Lake City-based KEEZ, the show's flagship station, said it was negotiating to keep Osmond on the air in some capacity. Rumors of the show continue to air on KEEZ each weekday from 2-7 p.m.

Osmond's show was ranked first in the Salt Lake market for the summer in the 18-34 age group among female listeners ages 25-54, according to estimates from Arbitron, a media research company.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



For being called a "comeback actor," John Travolta — shown with wife Kelly Preston — believes the saying means "he's keeping up his chops as an artist." In his new movie, "A Love Story for Bobby Long," Travolta plays an alcoholic professor.

The comeback actor

Travolta returns — again! — to the silver screen

BY MIKE SZYMANSKI
Zap2it.com

How many times can you have a comeback? John Travolta smiles when asked if he's irritated when pundits call his latest film, "A Love Story for Bobby Long," his new "comeback movie" like they did when "Pulp Fiction" and "Primary Colors" came around.

"It's an artistic reference — it's not that you don't exist and you're not doing movies," the actor says. "It's this: 'Did you do the movie that appealed to a group of journalists and critics and an audience that says he's an artist? That's all it is. It's not that you've been busy, been working, been starving, it's none of that.'

There's a hidden note that says, 'He's keeping up his chops as an artist.' That's what I gather from it."

After big-budget action movies last year in which he played a bad guy (in "The Punisher") and a hero (in "Ladder 49"), this meandering tale set in New Orleans seems quite different for Travolta.

He plays an alcoholic former professor who lives with a young protégé (played by Gabriel Byrne) in a house that's suddenly owned by a jaded teen (played by Scarlett Johansson) after her mother dies.

He understands the criticism, and the spotlight when he takes on indie projects like this, saying, "I feel the best when I get to spread my wings as an artist, but sometimes you spread your wings and it's not agreed upon either. It's subjective. As long as I'm still here talking to you, I don't care what you call it."

The two times he was nominated for a best actor Oscar were for "Saturday Night Fever," during the height of the disco era in 1977, and for "Pulp Fiction," during his first "big comeback" in 1994.

Since then, he's been honored for works such as "Get Shorty" and "Primary Colors" and vilified for "Domestic Disturbance" and "Battlefield Earth."

"The American Cinematheque did a tribute to me nine years ago," says the 50-year-old actor. "I think that once you've hit 40 and you've been around since 12 doing mov-

ies, there's no choice but to do some sort of tribute. It doesn't make me feel older and broken like my character in 'Bobby Long.'"

First-time director Shainee Gabel worried about working with such a star, saying, "John is the 800-pound gorilla, but he didn't act that way on the set. He was always equal with everyone else."

Travolta insists, "Often in the tiny movies you get to stretch the most. I mean, I've had the good luck of stretching even in big studio movies as in 'Primary Colors' or 'A Civil Action.' But where you get to take the most chances often in these independent movies. Life and living it contributed to this character. I couldn't have done it at 23. That's the luxury of getting older, you get to be more right in characters."

Travolta says he's met plenty of people like Bobby Long, and it was his idea to whiten his hair prematurely. "I've been on the receiving end of an alcoholic where they're wicked to you and the unedited verbiage that comes out of their heads and you go, 'Whoa,' but he's also bright, and very poetic," he says.

Dressed in all black — V-neck shirt, jacket and pants and close-cropped hair — he adds, "It's all about how you look too. Imagine if I looked the way that I look now in 'Pulp Fiction.' It would've been a harder sell."

When he first met Macht and Johansson, Travolta took them out for a shot of whiskey and a round of pool so they could get friendly. "He was great on the set, singing show tunes, telling stories," Macht says.

"I remember first seeing him in 'Grease' and saying, 'I want to do what that guy does.'"

Travolta gave his young co-stars homework, just like the professor he plays. When quotes from Robert Frost or T.S. Eliot were cited in the film, the superstar looked them up and handed out information sheets. "I did research and would say, 'OK, we're doing these quotes tomorrow. Is everyone familiar with them?'"

"I think that the story mostly says that broken people can be helpful, that they have something to offer," Travolta says. "But you learn that regardless of how broken they are, there might still be something there for each other."



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers.
Highs in the mid to upper 40s.
Wednesday lows in the upper 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the 20s. Wednesday lows in the mid to upper teens.

France: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower 30s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the 30s. Wednesday lows in the upper 20s.

Hungary: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the 50s. Wednesday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with snowshowers.
Highs in the lower to mid 20s.
Wednesday lows in the upper teens.

Norway: Partly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.





Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the 50s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s, lower 30s inland.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:59AM	6:58AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:59AM	7:58AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:35PM	5:36PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	5:20PM	5:22PM

			
Last qtr.	New moon.	First qtr.	Full moon.

AFRIC

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	82	64	Mogadishu	88	75
Dakar	77	65	Nairobi	84	55
Freetown	90	76	Rabat	61	35

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	45	39	Manila	85	74
Bahrain	74	57	Moscow City	74	40
Beijing	35	15	Montreal	20	0
Beirut	60	52	Riyadh	77	55
Bermuda	88	72	Rio de Jan	85	74
Caracas	79	66	Seoul	23	1
Helsinki	28	13	Sofia	33	2
Hong Kong	63	57	Sydney	85	74
Ishigaki	54	39	Tokyo	45	3

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

Rank	City	Population	Year	Rank	City	Population	Year
1	New York	45,535,000	1990	31	San Antonio	3,391,000	1990
2	New Orleans	47,345,000	1990	32	San Diego	3,350,000	1990
3	Los Angeles	39,215,000	1990	33	San Francisco	611,000	1990
4	Chicago	37,222,000	1990	34	Phoenix	614,000	1990
5	San Francisco	37,222,000	1990	35	San Jose	614,000	1990
6	San Jose	37,222,000	1990	36	San Juan	614,000	1990
7	San Antonio	37,222,000	1990	37	San Mateo	614,000	1990
8	San Diego	37,222,000	1990	38	San Marcos	614,000	1990
9	San Jose	37,222,000	1990	39	San Ramon	614,000	1990
10	San Francisco	37,222,000	1990	40	Shawnee	614,000	1990
11	San Antonio	37,222,000	1990	41	Shawnee	614,000	1990
12	San Diego	37,222,000	1990	42	Shawnee	614,000	1990
13	San Jose	37,222,000	1990	43	Shawnee	614,000	1990
14	San Francisco	37,222,000	1990	44	Shawnee	614,000	1990
15	San Antonio	37,222,000	1990	45	Shawnee	614,000	1990
16	San Diego	37,222,000	1990	46	Shawnee	614,000	1990
17	San Jose	37,222,000	1990	47	Shawnee	614,000	1990
18	San Francisco	37,222,000	1990	48	Shawnee	614,000	1990
19	San Antonio	37,222,000	1990	49	Shawnee	614,000	1990
20	San Diego	37,222,000	1990	50	Shawnee	614,000	1990
21	San Jose	37,222,000	1990	51	Shawnee	614,000	1990
22	San Francisco	37,222,000	1990	52	Shawnee	614,000	1990
23	San Antonio	37,222,000	1990	53	Shawnee	614,000	1990
24	San Diego	37,222,000	1990	54	Shawnee	614,000	1990
25	San Jose	37,222,000	1990	55	Shawnee	614,000	1990
26	San Francisco	37,222,000	1990	56	Shawnee	614,000	1990
27	San Antonio	37,222,000	1990	57	Shawnee	614,000	1990
28	San Diego	37,222,000	1990	58	Shawnee	614,000	1990
29	San Jose	37,222,000	1990	59	Shawnee	614,000	1990
30	San Francisco	37,222,000	1990	60	Shawnee	614,000	1990

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

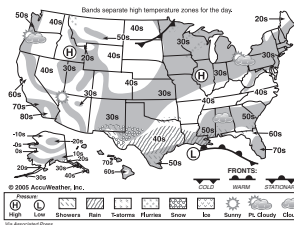
Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.

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High Low Shower Rain Tornado Hail Snow Ice Sunny Partly Cloudy

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



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Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

Jupiter in Libra (since Sept. 24) has been fabulously lucky for partnerships of all kinds, but that luck takes on a different tone now, as Big Daddy Jupiter stations to prepare for a retrograde transit. Partnerships have more to offer than you thought. A keen awareness will reveal where you should mine for more relationship gold.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 1). This year, you will achieve a long-held wish. Some of you will graduate with an advanced degree for which you worked extremely hard. Others will travel during the spring and summer months to a dream destination. October finds you making great progress towards a spiritual path, while November resolves a legal issue to your liking.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A creative project brings you immense joy and possibly a good deal of money, too! Stand back and admire your own handiwork. Luck is with you if you're looking for love — an encounter with your soul mate is very possible.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). A situation involving a parent is amicably resolved to your satisfaction. This is particularly true of matters pertaining to elderly care. You're in the right place at the right time. Home provides much-needed peace and solace.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're invigorated, charged up and ready to tackle whatever comes your way! People in your neighborhood seem especially attracted to your charisma. Even your own sudden sibling looks favorably upon you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Watch for money in your mailbox. A financial situation that's been in the works for weeks — possibly months — is likely to wrap up, and your efforts could bear golden fruit. It's best to remain humble and keep that hungry attitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A huge personal breakthrough is on the agenda for you, lucky lion! This marks the culmination of one phase

of your life and the beginning of a whole new and glorious adventure. Whatever you do today has major staying power.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Something that's been buried in your subconscious may rise to the surface and poke you out of your comfort zone. It could be the answer to a question you've been puzzling over. Pay attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel like partying! Whether you're the host or the guest, you're sure to benefit from socializing with friends and likeminded individuals. A slip across town or across the globe brings you insights into a moral dilemma.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A career matter reaches its grand finale, bringing with it potential for profit. From this point on, you may be playing in a whole different ball league, one in which you're calling all the shots! A confident Aquarius is favored for love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a lull in the action. Use this opportunity to search your soul. Re-evaluate your priorities and your values to make sure they're not outdated. Take the time to adjust as necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in prime position to take advantage of other people's money. Someone with deep pockets would very well offer to fund your pet project. Be sure to buy a lottery ticket or two. You can't win unless you play.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Marriage is in the air. If you're in a committed relationship, your beloved could pop the question or accept your proposal! If single, you could meet your future spouse. A business partner makes a significant and enticing offer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Those long hours you've been keeping and the stress you've been under do not a happy body make. Slow down the pace. Take a hot bath. Rest up. An ounce of prevention now will save you from illness later.

Creators Syndicate

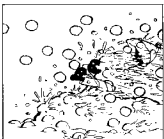
Holiday Mathis



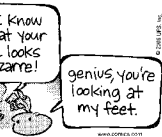
Peanuts



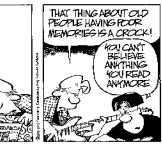
Calvin and Hobbes



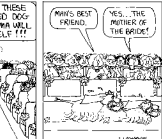
Jump Start



Zits



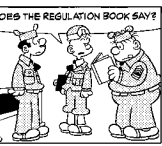
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



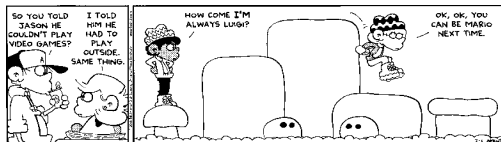
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



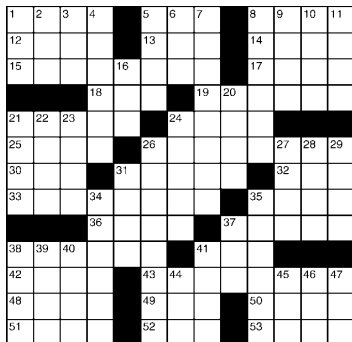
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Smile broadly
5 Toss into the mix
8 Calamine target
12 Language of Pakistan
13 Maui memento
14 Leak slowly
15 "While you were out" stick
17 Sketch
18 Air-monitoring org.
19 Wire-bending tool
21 Cross swords
24 Hoodlum
25 Leeway
26 Abated
30 Rushmore face
31 Actress Claire
32 Historic period
33 Steel-making pioneer
35 Duel tool
36 Recedes
37 Chop finely
38 Nap
41 Grecian vessel
42 Writer Quindlen
43 Meetings
48 Read cursorily
49 Ball-bearing item
50 Send packing
51 Literary London villain

Down

- 12 Night light
22 Judicial raiment
23 Leaves
24 Spicer's materials
26 Whips
27 Night light
28 — the Red
29 Evans or Earnhardt
31 Chapter 11 cause
34 Oscar's street
35 End
37 "— Doubtfire"
38 Obi, for one
39 Black
40 Oklahoma city
41 Works with
44 Moray
45 "Eureka!"
46 Without further ado
47 Scale member

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-1

CRYPTOQUIP

JREQIH GNX GEQUS U AUI
TP EX TUO GPP ARBN
BPSPIX. Q OXSSXJ "PJPE

Q1 GNX BPREG!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY HAS ADOPTED A NEW SLOGAN: "WE PUT PEOPLE IN THEIR PLACES!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals O

The humor of the hospital gown

Dear Readers: Believe it or not, I'm still getting mail regarding the letters I printed about hospital gowns.

Some of them gave me a chuckle, and I thought I'd share them with you. So pour yourselves a cup of coffee or tea, sit back, and as they say, "Bottoms up!"

Dear Abby: Twenty years ago, I was in the hospital going through a miscarriage, wearing a room-mate was a large woman who complained to the nurse that she barely covered her. I told them we were wearing designer gowns.

My roommate responded that it couldn't be true — hers looked like a regular gown to her. I told

her ours were made by "Jordan's."

Once she stopping laughing, the nurse said she thought I'd emotionally and physically survive the miscarriage if I could make a joke at a time like that.

Two years later, I became pregnant with my son, who's a high school senior this year. Even if you can't print this, I thought you would get a laugh from it.

— You Can Laugh or You Can Cry

Dear You: I did — and I want you to know I admire your strength in the face of adversity.

Dear Abby: Your column about hospital gowns reminded

me of an item that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Green Sheet years ago.

"Did you know that hospital gowns come in three sizes? Short, shorter, and don't bend over!"

— A. Beyersdorff, Milwaukee

Dear A: No, but that sounds like good advice to me.

Dear Abby: After reading the letters about hospital gowns, I wondered if your readers know that the first hospital gown was designed by a man named Seymour Heiny.

— R. McAl, Johnston, PA.
Dear R: A true visionary.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



Trouble with long-distance wife

Dear Annie: I am 65 years old and in a rather unusual position. My wife, "Lisa," works at an office three hours away. Lisa rented an apartment near her office and began to commute home on the weekends. That was eight years ago. Things reached the point where Lisa comes home only for holidays or social engagements.

When she does come home, she utters in a whole new load of issues. Lisa is in a high-ranking position at work and used to having control over everyone. She tells me what to eat and what to fix around the house. The worst is how she treats our housekeeper. Lisa makes a list of all the dirty spots the housekeeper has to clean the next time she comes. It's become so intolerable that we have shouting matches in front of our grandchildren.

Should I just make our separation legal? Is there in order here? — **Fed Up in the Southeast**
Dear Fed Up: We would never eschew therapy, although it didn't fit in included Lisa. Chances are, your wife is asserting her authority with such belligerence because she feels guilty

and is trying to make up for her absence. Also, she fears losing her position in the family and wants to make sure you remember.

Instead of shouting, try calmly explaining to Lisa why her take-charge attitude is causing a problem. You also might ask her to re-evaluate the importance of her job versus your marriage. Sounds like one of them is going to lose out.

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: I'm writing in response to "Not Only a Boys' Team Anymore," whose daughter, "Lanie," is the only girl on her baseball team.

When I was 8 years old, I also played on a boys' baseball team, and at first, everyone was weird about me being the only girl. But after I showed them that their remarks didn't bother me and only made me want to be better, they were on my side.

Thanks to all that, I started playing girls' fast-pitch softball in middle school, then varsity fast pitch in high school. I just finished my first year of collegiate softball. To Lanie, I say, don't let their remarks burn you

up. Be strong, and show the boys that baseball isn't just a boys' sport anymore. Best of luck.

— **Arizona Softball**
Dear Arizona: Good for you. Your words of encouragement will inspire Lanie and all girls in her position. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I was a Little League coach and I, too, had a girl on my team and a boy who was a bully, with a father to match. Every time the bully would say hurtful things, I would make him apologize and then run laps. His father didn't like this and had words with me. I informed Dad that there is no "I" in "team," and if he did not like my discipline, he could take his son home and not come back.

I also told the father that if he continued to give his two cents to my players, I would remove his son from the team and have him banned from the league. We had no more problems from the father after that, and his son was in tip-top shape from all the laps he ran.

— **Coach in Corona, Calif.**

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.
Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RACHI

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TELLU

RUFLYR

YUIRPT

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGLOW GLADE AMAZON DONKEY

Answer: What he ended up with when he ate all the doughnuts — A "GLAZED" LOOK

Family Circus

2-1

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What about point does the new year get old?"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

...And it turned into a slice of life



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

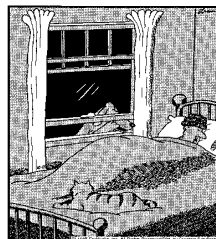


Dennis the Menace



The Far Side

© Gary Larson



Non Sequitur

Non Sequitur



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Kildow bruised after DH crash

Two women hurt in training runs; Miller third in men's first session

BY ERICA BULMAN
The Associated Press

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — American ski star Lindsey Kildow escaped serious injury Monday when she crashed into several photographers during downhill training in the Alpine World Ski Championships.

Kildow bruised her back and wrist but planned to take part in training runs Tuesday and Wednesday in advance of Sunday's downhill.

"I'm lucky," Kildow said. "I'm not badly injured. I just banged myself up a little bit. I've got a nice bruise on my back. I broke my pole and it hurts on my hand right where the grip goes. But I'll be going at 'em tomorrow."

Two other skiers were injured during the first women's training session. Germany's Isabelle Huber tore a ligament in her right knee, ending her season, and Russia's Alena Kasakova injured her left knee and was taken to a hospital for tests.

This has been a rough week for Kildow, who was a favorite for Sunday's super giant slalom but finished ninth after making several mistakes.

On Monday, she crashed after coming off a rotating turn in the steep, rotating in the air and landing backward. She fell spread eagle on her back, then spun on the ground several times as she sped down the course and plowed into the photographers.

"It was kind of scary," Kildow said. "I guess I ran into some people but I don't remember that."

Austria's Michaela Dorfmeister was fastest in training in 1 minute, 42.41 seconds, followed

by Germany's Hilde Gerg (1:43.31) and Italy's Iselle Kostner (1:43.42). The top American was Caroline Lallve, sixth in 1:43.95.

The three injured women were hurt on one of the most challenging sections of the course named for former Italian Olympic Deborah Compagnoni. Skiers turn left before jumping and changing direction in the air to make the next corner upon landing.

"Personally, I think that jump should be smoothed," Kostner, Italy's top downhiller for a decade, said. "I didn't have the feeling I was hoping for and I'm a little nervous about it right now."

Meanwhile, across the valley at Bormio, Olympic downhill champion Fritz Strobl was fastest in the men's opening session of downhill training, only the first step in the cutthroat competition among the powerful Austrians for a spot in the championships' premier race on Saturday.

Teams in world championship and Olympic competition are limited to four starters, which usually means Austria must leave off races who rank among the world's best.

In this case, a victim could be four-time World Cup overall and multi Olympic champion Hermann Maier. He, Strobl, Werner Franz and Christoph Gruber are contending for three spots, with times in training sessions Tuesday to be a determining factor.

"It's not easy," Maier said. "It's like we are racing twice. We race in training to earn a spot, then compete again on the race day. You have to give everything you have twice. It takes a lot out of you."



American Lindsey Kildow loses her balance prior to crashing during Monday's training session for the women's downhill in the Alpine World Ski Championships at Santa Caterina Valfurva, Italy. Kildow, considered a medal favorite for next weekend's race, was battered and had back bruise but was otherwise unharmed.

Johann Grugger, who has won two World Cup downhills this season, has already clinched one of Austria's spots, and Michael Walchhofer has an automatic fifth berth as defending champion.

Maier, unhappy when he was told he needed to qualify, appeared to have resigned himself to the idea Monday.

"I guess it's normal with my results this season," said Maier, whose best performance in down-

hill this season was a fourth place in the classic Lauberhorn at Wengen, Switzerland. "Besides, I've had to deal with qualifying in the past. In 1995, I had to qualify for my career, to get into the Austrian team. Without qualifying, I would never have become a champion. Anyway, I think the coaches know I am a favorite for gold."

Strobl was clocked in 1 minute, 57.69 seconds, 0.70 faster than Switzerland's Bruno Kernen,

with World Cup overall leader Bode Miller of Franconia, N.H., third in 1:58.65.

"It's only the first training run so it's difficult to tell how everyone is really skiing," said Miller, who won the men's super-G gold last Saturday. "Everyone is just trying to get familiar with the course."

Maier was sixth, 1.01 back; Gruber was 12th, 1.60 behind; and Franz was 14th, 2.04 back.

Neagle grievance vs. Rockies scheduled for April

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Denny Neagle's grievance against the Colorado Rockies to overturn the team's termination of his contract will be heard on April 14-15 by baseball arbitrator Shyam Das.

Colorado terminated the pitcher's contract on Dec. 6 three days after he was issued a citation for solicitation. Neagle pleaded innocent last week to the charge, which stems from an allegation that he offered a woman \$40 for sex.

Neagle, who has not pitched in a game since July 2003 because of injuries, agreed in December 2000 to a \$51 million, five-year contract that called for him to be paid \$10 million this year. In addition, the deal contains a \$12.5 million team option for 2006 with a

Sports briefs

\$9 million buyout, meaning he would be owed \$19 million by the Rockies if Das rules in his favor.

In terminating Neagle's deal, Colorado cited the provision in the uniform player contract that states the team can end the agreement if the player shall "fail, refuse or neglect to conform his personal conduct to the standards of good citizenship and good sportsmanship."

The Major League Baseball Players Association filed a grievance against the termination on Dec. 14.

Neagle, 36, has a 124-92 career record with a 4.24 ERA over 11 seasons, going 19-23 with a 5.57

ERA for the Rockies. The left-hander has had elbow ligament and shoulder operations since he last pitched.

Athens, Berlin, Moscow apply for swim world

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Swimming's international governing body expects to know by Feb. 15 if the world championships will be held in Athens, Berlin or Moscow.

FINA confirmed Monday that the three cities have officially applied to stage the July 17-31 meet, which was moved from Montreal because of budget problems.

Coley Wallace, boxer and actor, dead at 77

NEW YORK — Coley Wallace, who knocked out Rocky Marciano in an amateur bout and portrayed Joe Louis in two movies, has died. He was 77.

Wallace died in a Manhattan hospital Sunday of heart failure, his lawyer and friend, Raymond Sussman, said Sunday.

Wallace had a record of 20-7 in six years as a professional, but his most memorable moment came as an amateur in 1948, when he defeated Marciano in the New York Golden Gloves tournament. It is believed that the defeat was the only loss ever for Marciano, who went on to win the heavyweight championship and was unbeaten in 49 fights.

Wallace is best known for twice portraying Joe Louis on film, once in "The Joe Louis Story" in 1953 and again in Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull" in 1980.

Jockey critically injured in fall at Gulfstream

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. — Jockey Gary Boulanger was hospitalized in critical condition Monday after a fall during the Mac Diarmida Handicap at Gulfstream Park.

Boulanger's mount fell on the final turn and the jockey was sent to the ground when his horse was bumped by another horse.

Boulanger received head lacerations and was taken to Hollywood Memorial Hospital, where he was in critical condition in the intensive care unit, a nursing supervisor said.

Boulanger, 37, a native of Edmonton, Alberta, has been a fixture in South Florida horse racing for about a decade. He headed the list of Calder Race Course's top jockeys in 1994 and 1995, and finished in the top 10 last year.

Leonard overtakes faltering Ogilvie

First victory in almost two years bodes well for upcoming season

BY KEN PETERS

The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Justin Leonard felt he was in a rut, stuck on No. 8. After almost two years, he finally won No. 9.

"I enjoy taking pressure off myself, because I'm usually a little more relaxed and have a little more fun," Leonard said Sunday after ending his long victory slump with a victory in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

"I've been sitting on eight wins for almost two years, and it's nice to get a ninth."

He came from three shots back to pass faltering front-runner Joe Ogilvie on the third hole on the way to a 5-under 67 and three-shot victory over Ogilvie and Tim Clark.

Leonard, the 1997 British Open winner, certainly would like to follow in the footsteps of the previous two Hope champions.

Last year's winner, Phil Mickelson, used the Hope as an early springboard to win the Masters, his first major title. Mike Weir, the 2003 Hope winner, went on to don the green jacket at Augusta that year.

"I would say it's just coincidence, but look at the two guys who won this tournament the previous two years," Leonard said.

"Two pretty good players that probably set up pretty well for Augusta."

"I love playing Augusta. I'm looking very much forward to it."

He grinned and added, "I certainly hope to keep that streak alive. I may write that in my yardage book to give me a little boost of confidence."

Leonard finished the 90-hole Hope at 28-under 332 to end a winless string that stretched to the 2003 Honda Classic.

Ogilvie, in his sixth year on the tour and still looking for his first title, had a closing 73. Clark, who won the South African Open in his native country a week earlier, shot a 69.

Coming off his worst year since joining the tour full-time in 1995, Leonard rolled in six birdie putts and had just one bogey in the final round at PGA West's Palmer Course.

Ogilvie opened the day with a two-shot lead over Peter Leonard of Australia, with Leonard another shot back in third.

Ogilvie was in a five-way tie for the lead after the first round, then was alone at the top the next three days.

Leonard moved in front quickly during the final round, with birdies on the first two holes and a par on the third while Ogilvie bogeyed two of the first three holes. Leonard built the lead for four shots over Ogilvie and Clark with a birdie on No. 10, had another tie at No. 11 and then parred out.

"The rain dance didn't work," Ogilvie said jokingly. "I was try-



Justin Leonard, right, celebrates with his caddy, Brent Everson, after winning the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic on Sunday, his ninth career win.

ing for a rainout today, but that didn't happen."

"I certainly didn't play the way I would have liked today, but I got a pretty good front-row seat for a great round of golf [by Leonard]."

Clark's performance was impressive considering he had an arduous trip to California, and had never so much as seen any of the four courses used for the Hope.

After winning in South Africa the previous Sunday, he hopped on a plane and spent some 50 hours traveling — and waiting between connections — on his way to the five-day Hope.

"Coming here so far, such a travel, I didn't expect much of a week," said Clark, who earned \$413,600 [to Leonard's \$846,000] for his trouble.

The week was a blur to him.

"I can't even remember my [final] round to be honest," Clark said. "I couldn't even tell you what I did on 3. I don't even remember what 3 looks like."

Leonard dropped to 42nd on the earnings list last year with \$1.5 million, and failed to win a title for only the second time since 1996. He didn't qualify for the Tour Championship for the first time since turning pro.

Gatti set to challenge undefeated Mayweather

BY JOHN CURRAN

The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Arturo Gatti was feeling doubly blessed after vanquishing "Jesse" James Leija.

"I won the fight and didn't have to go to the hospital. That's a big plus for me," said Gatti, who put another notch in his WBC 140-pound belt with a convincing fifth-round knockout over Leija on Saturday.

Next up is unbeaten challenger Floyd Mayweather Jr., who will almost certainly put up a better fight.

Quick and crafty, Mayweather will square off with the brawling Gatti in a June 11 pay-per-view show in Boardwalk Hall, the site of Gatti's triumph over Leija.

Gatti, who made \$2 million for the second defense of his WBC title to Leija's \$700,000 on Saturday, was unfazed when Mayweather didn't show for a post-fight news conference announcing their fight.

"He's not the one that's going to sit tickets any more," said Gatti, 32, of Jersey City. "That's the truth."

Indeed, it's Gatti — box-office gold in Atlantic City in recent years — who consistently puts people in the seats at Boardwalk Hall.

His past five fights there have all drawn 11,000 or more, including a sellout crowd of 12,599 on Saturday night.

Mayweather (33-0), a former WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion, has moved up to the 140-pound weight class and is looking for his first title in it.

In his last outing, he stopped Henry Bruseles in the eighth round on Jan. 23 in Miami.

Leija, who at 38 is nine years older than Mayweather and six older than Gatti, couldn't handle Gatti despite a fight plan centered on drawing Gatti into the kind of toe-to-toe fight he often wages.

Gatti kept his distance in the early rounds, wary of any surprises by Leija, who said before the fight he hoped to use Gatti's aggressiveness against him.

"He's crafty and I expected the way to beat him was to use the jab," Gatti said. "I stayed on the outside because of his experience. I wanted to stay on the outside. Once I started landing the right hand, that made the difference."

In the fifth, he knocked Leija down with a hard right to the head that was the beginning of the end. Dazed, Leija (47-7-2) took a 9-count, barely getting to his feet before referee Earl Brown could count him out.

Gatti finished him with a left knee to the ear. Leija got to his knees but Brown counted him out at 1:48 of the fifth, depriving the crowd of one of the gory, down-to-the-wire brawls they usually get from Gatti.

Irwin wins record fifth straight Turtle Bay

BY JAMES SONG

The Associated Press

KAHUKU, Hawaii — The Turtle Bay Championship has become the Hale Irwin Invitational.

Irwin became the first player to win a men's professional tour event five straight times Sunday, easily holding off Dana Quigley by five strokes.

"It's always good to be a part of history and I think this is a very proud moment," said the 59-year-old Irwin, who closed with a 5-under 67 for a record 16-under 200 total.

With his fourth straight win at Turtle Bay and sixth overall tie in the event, Irwin pushed his Champions Tour-record victory total to 41.

The three-time U.S. Open champion had shared the mark of four straight victories in an event with Tiger Woods (Bay Hill Invitational, 2000-03), Gene Sarazen (Miami Open, 1926, 1928-30), Walter Hagen (PGA Championship, 1924-27) and Tom Morris Jr. (British Open, 1868-70, 1872).

With the trade wind kicking in, Irwin masterfully controlled the Turtle Bay Resort's balmy, oceanic Palmer Course, breaking his own tournament mark of 11-under 205 set in 2001. He earned \$225,000.

He closed in a red shirt, blue slacks and a white cap in support of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Irwin said his final round game plan was to



Hale Irwin holds the trophy after winning the Turtle Bay Championship the fifth straight time.

get off to a fast start and hit all the fairways and greens.

Mission accomplished. He hit all his greens in regulation and overshot just one fairway on No. 17.

"Hale was just on another planet," Quigley said. "He was in a different world. No one could've beaten him today."

The Hall of Famer, coming off a third-place tie last week in the season-opening MasterCard Championship on the Big Island, had won eight official events in the islands dating to the PGA Tour's 1981 Hawaiian Open, earning nearly \$3.9 million.

"I can't tell you how lucky I am with a third last week and a first this week because I didn't do anything for six weeks," he said.

His time away from golf never showed.

Irwin took away any suspense early, carding five birdies on the front nine to make the turn at 31 and take a commanding six-stroke lead, leaving the rest of the field fighting for second place.

"Two of the three days, I got off to a very quick start," Irwin said. "It sets the tempo for the rest of the day and you feel like you don't have to peddle quite so hard to keep up with the pack because you're ahead of the pack."

Then it's a matter of trying to keep your focus and not get yourself into situations where you blindside yourself."

Quigley, the MasterCard winner, shot a 69 and took home \$132,000 to push his two-week winnings to \$404,000.

"Finishing 1-2 in the first two weeks is beyond what I expected," he said.

Irwin, who began his streak with a victory at Kaanapali in 2000, played nearly flawless in the 54-hole event. He began the day with a two-stroke lead over Allen Doyle and shared the lead with three others after the opening round.

Irwin continued his torrid run on the back side by holing a long birdie putt on the 416-yard 10th to reach 17 under. The putt curled left to right and paused at the edge of the cup for a split second and dropped in.

The gallery cheered wildly as Irwin exhaled deeply and raised his right arm.

Competition down under bodes well for game

Talented field hints at rivalries tennis thrives on

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Marat Safin kept Russia's Grand Slam streak intact.

Safin won the Australian Open in the first night final on Sunday, beating home favorite Lleyton Hewitt and continuing what three of his female compatriots started by winning the last three Grand Slam events of 2004.

After losing two of the last three finals at Melbourne Park, Safin defeated Hewitt 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, but struggled through a subpar start. A Russian man or woman has won at each of the last four Grand Slam events, with Safin joining Maria Sharapova (Wimbledon), Anastasia Myskina (French Open) and Svetlana Kuznetsova (U.S. Open).

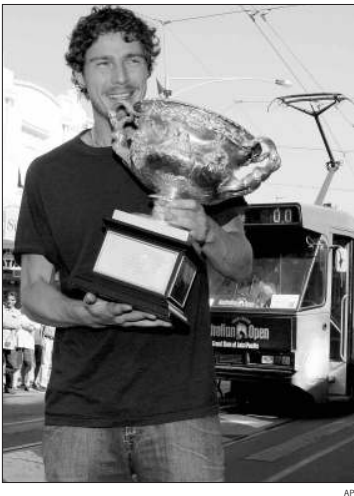
"The first set, you really couldn't call it tennis," the fourth-seeded Safin said. "I couldn't serve. I couldn't run. I didn't believe I could play that badly."

But by the end, Safin was back at the top of his game, an effort that embodied his comeback from injuries that dropped the former world No. 1 and 2000 U.S. Open champion to 86th just over a year ago.

"It's psychological — you start to have doubts, like really I could do this or not," said Safin, a player known for his racket-busting outbursts. "It's the time, you get so nervous, so uptight."

"I don't want to lose it," he added. "Nobody cares about the (losing) finalist — so it was just a kind of a relief." Safin made a single, jubilant fist pump after Hewitt hit a forehand out on match point, and said the victory wouldn't really sink in until he was back in his hotel room with the trophy.

Now Safin can look to the fu-



Russia's Marat Safin holds his Australian Open trophy in St. Kilda, Australia, Monday. Safin defeated Australia's Lleyton Hewitt in the final.

ture, knowing he has proven that his critics — those who questioned whether he would win another major — didn't know what they were talking about.

Just as important, he proved to himself, and the rest of the world, that top-ranked Roger Federer is beatable after ending his 26-match winning streak in the semifinals.

"Once you beat him, and then you beat Lleyton, you get so much confidence in yourself that you really can play great, you can win big titles and you can beat huge players in the finals and semifinals," Safin said.

It's the same feeling Serena Williams has after winning the women's title Saturday, silencing the people who said she and sister Venus were slipping.

In winning her seventh Grand Slam title, but first in 18 months, Williams put her distinctive stamp back on the women's game, defeating the fourth-, second- and top-seeded players in her last three matches.

Williams' three-set victory over Sharapova in the semifinals also avenged her loss in the Wimbledon final last year and set the stage for a new rivalry in wom-



Serena Williams, left, and compatriot Lindsay Davenport hug after their women's final match at the Australian Open on Saturday.

en's tennis. Williams will rise to No. 2 in the new rankings and already has her sights set on the French Open — and the top spot.

Sharapova's title was bracketed by Myskina's French Open title and Kuznetsova's U.S. Open championship. With five winners in the last five Grand Slams, the variety at the top of the women's game bodes well for the future, especially after 2004 Australian Open winner Justine Henin-Hardenne and runner-up Kim Clijsters come back from injuries.

Hewitt, who put in months of preparation in his effort to become the first Australian man to win the Open since Mark Edmondson on the grass courts of Kooyung in 1976, was downcast after losing to Safin.

"I'm human and I'm disappointed — to come that close, train so hard to put yourself in a position where it's hard to take at the moment," said Hewitt, who will replace Andre Roddick at No. 2 in the rankings.

Hewitt had reasons to feel good. Shortly after his loss, he proposed to his girlfriend, actress Rebecca Cartwright. A statement

released by the couple said he gave Cartwright an engagement ring within hours after the match. Other Australians had pretty good tournaments, too.

Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, a wild-card pair playing together for the first time, won the mixed doubles earlier Sunday, defeating Kevin Ullyett of Zimbabwe and Lieke Huber of South Africa 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 (6). Stosur was scheduled to play with another player, who withdrew on the day before the tournament.

Draper, also a professional golfer, had to juggle sports over the past four days, playing in his first pro golf event Friday morning and winning his mixed doubles semifinal on Friday afternoon. He missed the cut in the Victoria Open. The last round finished Sunday — as the mixed doubles final was being played.

Australia's Alicia Molik, who lost to Lindsay Davenport in the singles semifinals with a questionable call playing a key role, teamed with Kuznetsova to win the women's doubles by beating Davenport and Corina Morariu, back on the circuit after being diagnosed with leukemia 3½ years ago.

Davenport seeks fifth Pan Pacific title

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Coming off a tough loss to Serena Williams at the Australian Open final on the weekend, Lindsay Davenport faces a tough task applying her weary body to this week's Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo.

"I'm not 100 percent right now," Davenport said Monday. "But I took yesterday off and hopefully I'll be in good shape for my first singles match on Thursday."

Davenport, who lost 6-2, 3-6, 0-6 to Williams in the Australian Open singles final Saturday, is the defending champion at the \$1.3 million Japanese event. The WTA's top-ranked player also won this tournament in 2003, 2001 and 1998.

"You've got to recover quickly," Davenport said of her loss to Williams. "It's always tough to lose in a Grand Slam final, but you've got to move forward."

If top-seeded Davenport can de-

fend her title here, she'll become the tournament's most successful player. Martina Hingis has also won four times.

Davenport defeated Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva in last year's final. This year, she'll have to contend with World No. 4 Maria Sharapova of Russia, who always plays well in Japan.

Wimbledon champion Sharapova, who lost to Williams in the semifinals at Melbourne, won the Japan Open in October and is seeded second.

The Pan Pacific Open runs from Feb. 1-6 indoors at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, who lost to compatriot Sharapova in the Australian Open quarterfinals, is seeded

third while fellow Russian Elena Dementieva is No. 4.

Fifth-seeded Ai Sugiyama, who is 21st in the WTA rankings, is among seven players who will represent the host nation.

The only Japanese player to win in the 22-year history of the tournament is Kimiko Date, who won in 1995.

Davenport maintained her No. 1 ranking despite the Australian Open loss, while Williams jumped from seventh to second in the WTA rankings on Monday.

Williams, who beat three of the top four players at the Australian Open, is the first woman to move to No. 2 from outside the top five in a single tournament.

Amelie Mauresmo dropped from No. 2 to No. 3 while Maria Sharapova remained No. 4.

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Cowboys' guard tandem puts on a show in debut

The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — John Lucas and Jameison Curry had a successful debut as Oklahoma State's starting backcourt.

Lucas, the veteran who led the Cowboys to the Final Four last season, and star freshman Curry started together for the first time this season and paced Oklahoma State to a 104-86 victory, its first at Colorado in almost nine years.

It was the ninth-ranked Cowboys' highest output since getting 108 against Oklahoma in 1989.

"When your starting guards have 48 points, 12 assists and only one turnover, you're not going to lose very many games," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. Lucas had 26 points and Curry, starting in place of Daniel Bobik, had 17 of his season-high 22 in the second half.

"I had six steals and no turnovers, that's all that matters," Curry said.

The last time Oklahoma State (15-3, 5-2 Big 12) won in Boulder was Feb. 24, 1996.

Curry was 6-for-8 from three-point range and provided some strong defense in the second half on Colorado freshman Richard Roby. Roby had 12 points on 4-for-8 shooting on threes in the first half. He finished with 14 points.

"They eliminated my touches in the second half," Roby said. "I thought they had two or three different guys guarding me in the first half. They went to one guy in the second half." Andy Osborn and Chris Copeland each scored 19 points to lead the Buffaloes (10-8, 2-5), who were outrebounced 36-23. The Cowboys were 13-for-21 on three-pointers, while Colorado was a school-record 17-for-29.

"It turned into a gunning game and we got outgunned," Roby said. "They shot 60 percent and you won't beat anybody allowing 60 percent shooting."

No. 10 Washington 79, Arizona 57: At Tempe, Ariz., Nate Robinson scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half and helped the Huskies (17-3, 7-2) moved back into a tie with Arizona for first place in the Pac-10.

De Diogo had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Arizona State (15-6, 4-5), which committed 21 turnovers.

Robinson, bouncing back from a sub-par game last Thursday in a 92-83 loss at Arizona,

was 8-for-12 from the field, including 6-for-8 in the second half, and was 2-of-4 on three-pointers.

The Simmons scored 15 points and Brandon Roy had 12 for Washington. Jamaal Williams added 11 points, six during a decisive 11-0 second-half run.

No. 14 Alabama 75, Georgia 47: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kennedy Winslow scored 18 points and the Crimson Tide (17-3, 6-1 Southeastern Conference) held Georgia to 31 percent shooting.

Georgia went more than 8 minutes in the second half without scoring and Alabama outscored the Bulldogs 21-2 in the first 10 minutes after halftime.

The game was originally scheduled for Saturday night, but the Bulldogs were delayed getting to Tuscaloosa because of icy weather in Georgia.

Younes Idrissi had 14 points for Georgia (7-10, 1-6).

Notre Dame 78, No. 19 Connecticut 74: At South Bend, Ind., Torin Francis scored 19 points and the Fighting Irish (13-5, 5-3 Big East) dominated inside.

Denham Brown led the Huskies (12-5, 4-3) with 20 points, while Marcus Williams had 10 points and tied the school record with 16 assists.

Connecticut missed its final five shots, including a breakthrough layup by Williams that would have tied the game at 76 with 15 seconds left.

Josh Boone, Connecticut's leading scorer at 14.8 points a game, was limited to six on 3-for-6 shooting, and Charlie Villanueva, who averages 12.6 points, had six points on 2-for-8 shooting.

Maryland 79, No. 22 Georgia Tech 71: Nik Carter-Medley scored 19 points and Chris McCray had 16 for the Terrapins (13-5, 4-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who followed Wednesday's 75-66 upset of Duke with another victory over a ranked team.

Isma'il Muhammad had 15 points for the Yellow Jackets (12-6, 3-4), who lost for the fourth time in five games and fell to 0-3 on the road in the ACC.

John Gilchrist scored 15 points, Ekene Ibekwe had 14 and Travis Garrison grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds for the Terrapins, who have won 10 of their last 11 home games against Georgia Tech.



Maryland's John Gilchrist, right, blocks a shot attempt by Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack during the second half of Sunday's game at College Park, Md. Maryland beat Georgia Tech 79-71.

Navy pulls a surprise; Army falls

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Greg Sprink scored 17 points as Navy surprised Patriot League leader Bucknell 66-62 on Sunday.

Bucknell (14-6 overall, 5-2 Patriot), which earlier this season

ranked Pittsburgh, couldn't overcome Navy's late-game

free-throw accuracy. The Midshipmen (6-14, 2-5) made 10 of their final 11 free throws.

Two free throws by Corey Johnson gave Navy the lead for good at 63-62, and George O'Garra added two with 18 seconds remaining to push the margin to three points.

After Kevin Bettencourt missed a three-pointer for Bucknell, Sprink grabbed the rebound and was fouled. His free throw with 7.4 seconds to play completed the scoring.

Lafayette 66, Army 49: At Easton, Pa., Sean Knitter and Jamaal Douglas each scored 14 points to lead Lafayette over Army.

Matt Beley contributed 12 points for Lafayette (6-14, 2-5 Patriot League), which held a 30-20 halftime edge.

Clay Simms scored 16 points and Matt Bell added 10 points for Army (3-16, 1-6), which was out-rebounded 47-28.

Army pulled to 33-29 with 15:51 left and trailed only 36-30 with 14 minutes remaining when Knitter scored on four straight possessions, and Pat Beley added a three-pointer that gave the Leopards a 47-35 advantage with 8:26 remaining.

Despite shooting only 36 percent for the game, Lafayette led throughout and finished the first half on a 10-3 run. The Leopards were also 16-for-19 from the free throw line. Army shot 36 percent overall.

Redick's misses big news as Duke routs Hokies

By KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Jeff King stood outside Virginia Tech's locker room and tried to make sense of the pounding he and his team-mates received at Duke.

The Hokies forward, who's also a tight end on the football team, had various bumps and bruises, and a cut over his right eye. He joked about being hit harder in the game than he had in his college seasons, while the Hokies won the Atlantic Coast Conference football title.

"But we expected it," King said. "We came down here knowing it was going to be a dogfight. We saw them in a couple of weeks at home."

Shelden Williams had 21 points and 11 rebounds by halftime and

J.J. Redick scored 29 points despite a shaky performance at the free-throw line, helping the second-ranked Blue Devils bury Virginia Tech 100-65 on Sunday night.

Williams finished with 25 points and 17 rebounds for Duke (16-1, 6-1 ACC), which bounced back from a home loss earlier in the week to Maryland. Daniel Ewing added 17 points.

"We wanted to come out and make a statement," Williams said. "I knew they were going to be a scrappy team, so we wanted to throw the first punch, so to speak."

Virginia Tech (11-7, 4-3) fell to 0-8 at Cameron and played the final 4:39 without coach Seth Greenburg, who was issued his second technical foul and headed to the locker room.

"I feel bad for my daughters and my wife, because, obviously, I embarrassed them and that's not something I want to happen," Greenburg said. "I did not use profanity — until I was tossed."

Zabian Dowdell had 15 points to lead the Hokies, who finished with 34 fouls, seven off the ACC record set in 1998 by Clemson against North Carolina. The Blue Devils shot 49 free throws — 35 in the first half — to Tech's 23.

"I guess we foul a lot," Greenburg said. "Our guys tried to play as hard as humanly possible, and we're just going to continue to work hard and try to establish a foundation for our program."

Perhaps tuning up for his matchup with Wake Forest's Eric Williams on Wednesday, the Duke center swished a turnaround jumper about 20 seconds

into the game and had five opportunities for three-point plays in the opening 20 minutes. He finished 9-for-13 from the field.

"He's a monster under the basket," Virginia Tech forward Deron Washington said. "He's too strong."

With so many stoppages for free throws, even the Cameron Crazies appeared to get bored with the pace of play, chanting "Please stop fouling!" on several occasions. At one point, the Blue Devils shot free throws on four straight possessions.

"I think it was too physical," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "It shouldn't be that physical, but for both teams. I'm not blaming them. It was both sides."

Redick might have been affected, too. For the first time in his career, he missed more than one

free throw in a game, missing only seven of 10. He had missed only 20 of his previous 354. He's made 96 of 103 (93 percent) this season.

"I had no idea what was going on," Redick said. "I missed every one the same way. It was like I was dreaming."

The Blue Devils held Virginia Tech without a basket for the final 5:35 of the first half and completed a 17-2 run on Redick's three-point just before the buzzer to lead 56-31. The Hokies got one in 16 early in the second half before Ewing and Redick combined to make four consecutive three-pointers, and the final 10 minutes was nothing more than garbage time.

"We're going to have to play this hard just to have an opportunity to win any game we play," Krzyzewski said. "We've always known that. We're a good team just trying to get better."

Eagles hope to buck trend of Philly teams losing the big one

BY ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The City of Brotherly Love is a city of losers in the sports world.

None of Philadelphia's four major professional teams have won a championship since the 1960s captured the NBA title in 1973 and they've won only nine titles in more than 120 years. They've come close several times, only to disappoint their long-suffering fans who are accustomed to agonizing losses and heart-breaking finishes.

The Eagles are hoping to end the 22-year title drought by defeating the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl next Sunday. A win would spark a frenzied celebration in the championship-starved city. More than a million fans would be expected to turn out for a victory parade on Broad Street that would be held on Feb. 8.

"When I came to Philly in 1977, all I ever heard was the parade the Flyers got when they won the Stanley Cup," said Ron Jaworski, quarterback of the 1980 Eagles, the only other time Philadelphia reached the Super Bowl. "I can't even imagine what it would be like if they won the Super Bowl."

Jaworski, now an NFL television analyst, was on the field for the final seconds of the Eagles' victory over Atlanta in the NFC championship game last Sunday. He had understood the magnitude of the win, especially since the Eagles had lost the last three conference title games, including two to the Rams.

"This is the most passionate football community in the country," Jaworski said. "They've supported their team through good years and bad. They endured the three devastating championship losses. It seems all those memories were erased on Sunday. The outcome of the game affected the mood of the entire city and I can tell you people are walking around town with a swagger like you've never seen before."

They won't be strutting around if the Eagles lose to the Patriots. Though some fans are satisfied their team overcame adversity — a severe ankle injury to All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens — to reach the Super Bowl, just getting there is a feat for many of the devoted loyalists.

"Nobody cares if you lose. They only remember if you win the big game," said season ticketholder Joe Parisi.

In Philly, it's easy to remember the championship teams because so few have won it all. It's even easier to recall all the failures.

The Eagles have won three NFL championships in 72 years, but none since 1960. The 76ers have won three titles in 56 years. The Flyers have won two Stanley Cup titles in 37 years, but none since 1975.

The Phillies have won just one World Series (1980) since their in-

ception in 1883, and have lost more championships than any team in sports.

Fans in Boston and Chicago can sympathize. The Red Sox went 86 years without winning a World Series until last October. The Cubs haven't won a World Series since 1908 and the White Sox last won it in 1917.

But, the Patriots won two Super Bowls in the last three years and the Celtics won numerous NBA championships over those years, giving Boston fans plenty of reasons to celebrate.

And, Chicago fans have celebrated the Bears winning the Super Bowl and six NBA titles for Michael Jordan and the Bulls in the last two decades.

So, Philly just might be the most tortured city in sports. "A whole generation has grown up without experiencing the feeling of winning a championship," said die-hard fan Mike Sariceno. "We've been teased and disappointed so many times. We're due."

The 76ers were the most recent team to fall short in a title quest when an overachieving squad led by MVP Allen Iverson lost 4-1 to Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2001 NBA Finals.

The Flyers were swept by Detroit in the 1997 Stanley Cup finals, their fifth straight defeat in the finals and the only time they played for a championship during star Eric Lindros' tenure in Philadelphia. The Phillies were two wins away from winning the World Series in 1993, before Toronto's Alex Rodriguez hit a dramatic homer in Game 6 to clinch it for the Blue Jays. The Eagles, coached by Dick Vermeil, were dominated by Oakland, 27-10, in their first trip to the Super Bowl 24 years ago.

The Eagles have caused fans more grief than any of the teams in recent years, beginning in the mid 1980s when Buddy Ryan came in and proclaimed, "You got a winner in town."

Ryan backed up his bravado, rebuilding a losing organization and rejuvenating a fan base that lost interest following a string of six straight losing seasons from 1982-87.

But Ryan's teams, led by quarterback Randall Cunningham and defensive end Reggie White, were 0-3 in the playoffs, the first losing record in the infamous Fog Bowl at Chicago on Dec. 11, 1988. Rich Kotite and Ray Rhodes followed Ryan and both had moderate success, each winning one playoff game. But eventually the Eagles hit rock bottom and were considered the laughingstock of the league when Andy Reid was hired in 1999.

Reid came in without any previous experience as a head coach, drafted Donovan McNabb in his first year and has taken the Eagles to the last four NFC championship games, finally winning one in 2004.

One game remains, though, and a city's hopes are riding on it.

BY RON WORD
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — After more than four years of planning, Jacksonville is ready for its time on the Super Bowl stage.

Owners of temporary stores are loading shelves for a one-week sales season, security is getting tighter, and the football world's eyes are beginning to focus on the River City — which, despite its relative lack of status compared to some of the nation's popular tourist destinations, welcomed the challenge of hosting the NFL's title game.

The finishing touches for the transformation of Jacksonville's downtown are going on in earnest, with workers planting flowers, paving streets and setting up temporary cell phone towers — all with the hope of better accommodating the estimated 100,000 visitors who'll flood the city this week for the Super Bowl.

Palm trees have been planted and concrete sidewalks have been replaced by brick. Television lights and towers have been erected atop a parking garage. TV networks are beginning to set up their expensive camps and colorful fiberglass mannequins spaced through the downtown area.

And on Sunday morning, the real stars — the AFC champion New England Patriots and NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles — arrived to begin their final preparation for the Feb. 6 game.

Let the party begin. "I'm glad it's finally here, but it's a big mystery dealing with all the unknowns," said Vince O'Rourke, who owns Eclipse, a downtown restaurant and lounge.

Jacksonville has never before hosted a Super Bowl, and for many the process has been of the learn-as-you-go variety. O'Rourke said the game is causing him big logistical problems as he sups supplies and staffing — he simply doesn't know how much to order and how many people to hire.

Betty Turner operates a jewelry store, and she, too, has concerns — like how diverted traffic will affect her sales. A street festival will go on outside her downtown storefront, and she's not sure how she'll get to work or where she — or her prospective customers — will park.

"I am praying for the fact that the Super Bowl will give us the bump to keep going," Turner said.

Organizers insist that everyone involved can relax, and that everything leading up to next Sunday will go as planned.

It may be the first Super Bowl for the city and most of its 10,000 volunteers, but it's not the first for many of the key organizers — including Michael Kelly, who heads the Super Bowl Host Committee after serving in a similar capacity for Tampa's Super Bowl in 2001.

Kelly knows the city wasn't a popular choice to host this game, yet he believes Jacksonville, which submitted its bid application back in 2000, will prove critics wrong.

"There is a lot of anticipation," Kelly said. "We are ready to get the party started."

Added host committee spokeswoman Heather Surface: "A

well-oiled machine is an excellent way to describe it."

Plans seem to be moving along smoothly as the city prepares for the hordes of Eagles and Patriots fans, the arrival of five cruise ships that will serve as temporary floating hotels, plus corporate bigwigs and a virtual army of public relations folks pushing everything from the Sharpe ink pens to rapper Snoop Dogg.

Organizers say the game will result in a direct economic impact of \$300 million or more for Jacksonville, the nation's largest city in terms of mass (841 square miles) but one that doesn't even rank among the nation's top 50 television markets.

And there are plenty of people hoping to cash in. Among them: Former NFL tightback Ben Malone, who played for the Miami Dolphins from 1973-78. He'll operate a temporary storefront called "Major T's," which will be stocked with Super Bowl shirts, jackets (\$300), soft glasses (\$8) and other memorabilia.

Every year the Malone family, from Tempe, Ariz., heads for the Super Bowl to operate a similar shop.

"We heard this was where there was going to be a big block party," said Malone's son, Ben.

Now the block, he says, is a building manager, was overseeing the completion of a coffee shop, which will be run by the Jacksonville chapter of National Association for the Mentally III — of which he's the local president.

"The Super Bowl has been good for downtown," he said. "People are doing what they've put off doing for years, even if they are doing it in one week."

Words: Harrison, others dive into fray

WORDS, FROM BACK PAGE

Hey, Rodney, there's still six days before you have to suit up.

For the veteran Patriots to dive headfirst into such a fray is almost astonishing. Many of the Eagles recognize that. Even though this is the team's first trip to the Super Bowl in 24 years, they came across Sunday as the more experienced, resolute bunch.

"They were more experienced," comments Donovan McNabb said. "Freddie didn't mean anything by them. It's sad that people have to blow them up to make them into a story."

"Freddie apologized. If someone gives those comments to get up for a game like this, they don't need to be here. This is the Super Bowl, this is the ultimate."

The ultimate what? It was hard to tell Sunday.

Maybe Mitchell, who was unavailable to the media on Sunday, will give his oral side a step further when he does speak.

Asked if he would directly address Mitchell, Harrison responded



Super Bowl XXXIX,
midnight Sunday.
AFC-N; AFN-P

Game time is Central European.

ed sarcastically: "What would I say? I don't have much to say. It's Freddie Mitchell."

Mitchell could be a key figure during the game itself, when everyone's expected to be paying attention to the actual play, not the wordy by-play. Even with his banged-up secondary, New England has shut down opponents, with T.O. as MIA, Mitchell must produce to give Philadelphia a decent chance for its first NFL crown since 1960.

The Eagles acquired Owens to get them over the hump of three straight NFC title games last year. While they scaled that mountain, they did so without the injured Owens, whose main role was as a cheerleader.

While team doctors have not cleared Owens to be on the field next Sunday, he's making every effort to play. Reid and his staff have been close-mouthed — isn't that refreshing, not about Owens' potential availability.

New England has its own health issues, with both starting cornerbacks out, as they have been for months, and All-Pro DT Richard Seymour's status uncertain with a knee injury.

But the Patriots have treated those absences as a non-issue — at least until Mitchell insulted them.

"We have a pieced-together secondary," said Troy Brown, the receiver-kick returner turned cornerback, who was out last week. "It's a team sport. It doesn't matter if you know your name or not."

Trio sparks depleted Cavs

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Time to stock up on the ice packs, aspirin and bandages. The Cavaliers are hurting.

Already missing star forward LeBron James, another starter and a top reserve, Cleveland lost two more players to injury Sunday night before Drew Gooden, Zdravko Radovic and Jeff McInnis sparked a 104-87 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Gooden scored a career-high 33 points — 27 in the second half — and Igauskas had 28 points and 18 rebounds as the hobbling Cavs survived another day without James, who sat out his second straight game with a sprained ankle.

"Everybody knew we had to step up with LeBron down," said McInnis, who matched a career high with 15 assists. "We only had like six guys available at the end. But Z, myself and Drew weren't going to let us lose this game."

Actually, the Cavs, who because of injuries dressed just nine players, were down to seven in the fourth quarter after Lucious Harris (bruised chest) and Sasha Pavlovic (right hip flexor) got hurt. In addition to James, Cleveland also was without starting forward Ira Newble (Achilles sprain) and super sub Anderson Vaughn (ankle sprain) Sunday.

On top of that, Cleveland rookie Luke Jackson is likely done for the year after undergoing back surgery and guard Dajuan Wagner has been in and out of the hospital with a stomach injury.

"It's just that time of year where these things come about," Cavs coach Paul Silas said. "Other guys have got to step up."

Igauskas and Gooden took over in the second half, scoring 42

Roundup

of Cleveland's 50 points — 28 in 32 in the fourth — and adding 16 rebounds after halftime as the Cavaliers improved to an Eastern Conference-best 16-4 at home and 1-1 since losing James.

James sprained his left ankle last week against Memphis and is still too sore to give it a try. Silas expects to have James' 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists per outing back in Orlando.

"We needed to win this game," said Harris, who had nine points in the first half. "We have to hold the fort down until LeBron gets back."

Michael Redd scored 23 points and Desmond Mason 17 for the Bucks, who were held to a season-low 10 points in the fourth quarter by the Cavs, who switched to a gimmicky triangle-and-two defense in the final period.

"We have so many guys down, I had to come up with something," Silas said.

Lakers 101, Bobcats 90: At Los Angeles, Carter Butler and Corey Atkins each scored 20 points, Chris Mihm had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Los Angeles ended its first three-game losing streak of the season.

Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich said his team because of a stomach virus. Assistant coach Frank Hamblen, the only holdover from former coach Phil Jackson's staff, guided the team. Hamblen has experience as a head coach since in 1991-92 when he went 23-42 with Milwaukee when Del Harris was sidelined by stomach problems.

The Lakers are 4-4 since Kobe Bryant sprained his right ankle Jan. 13 in a victory over Cleveland. Bryant joined his teammates on the bench for the first time since his injury because it was the first time he didn't need continuous therapy on the ankle.

Primoz Brezec had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the expansion Bobcats, who lost for the 17th time in 19 games. The Cavs are 1-19 on the road. Rookie Emeke Okafor hurt his left ankle with 2:34 left and ended the game on the bench after scoring seven points and shooting 2-for-10.

Kareem Rush, whose 21 points Saturday night against Toronto helped the Bobcats end a season-worst 10-game losing streak, scored 13 against the Lakers. It was his first game against his former team since being traded to Charlotte on Dec. 6.

Heat 104, Rockets 95: With Dwyane Wade out, Miami can afford the occasional off-game from Shaquille O'Neal.

Wade had 30 points, eight rebounds and six assists, leading a balanced attack that carried the host.

O'Neal took only 11 shots and finished with 15 points and five rebounds. Udonis Haslem hit his first career shot from the floor and finished with 16 for Miami as did Damon Jones. Eddie Jones added 11.

Tracy McGrady had 28 points for Houston, which lost for the first time in its last four road games. Yao Ming had 12 of 22 points in the fourth quarter for the Rockets.

Kings 94, Timberwolves 84: Brad Miller had 27 points, 15 rebounds and help picking up the slack for two injured Kings stars.

The Sacramento backcourt,



Cleveland Cavaliers' Drew Gooden (10) shoots over Milwaukee Bucks' Dan Gaurdize, left, and Mike James (13) in the second quarter Sunday.

Cuttino Mobley (23 points) and Mike Bibby (21 points), combined for 34 points over the two quarters following a slow first half. All-star forwards Peja Stojakovic (back spasms) and Chris Webber (sore left knee) didn't dress for the visiting Kings.

Kevin Garnett had 21 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for Minnesota, which had its five-game winning streak end.

Suns 123, Raptors 105: At Toronto, Amare Stoudemire

scored 19 of his 27 points in the third quarter and the Suns won their fifth straight game.

Phoenix outscored Toronto 46-26 in the third quarter, the most points the Raptors have allowed in any quarter in their 10-year history.

Shawn Marion added 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Suns, who went 4-0 on their four-game road trip. Steve Nash had 19 points and 12 assists as all five Phoenix starters scored at least 17 points.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	47.7	—
Philadelphia	18	42.9	2 1/2
New York	18	41.9	2 1/2
New Jersey	19	40.2	3 1/2
Toronto	18	37.0	4 1/2
Southeast Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	23	71.7	—
Orlando	18	65.6	5 1/2
Atlanta	24	55.8	7 1/2
Charlotte	18	42.9	11 1/2
Cleveland	6	34.0	19 1/2
Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	26	70.0	—
Indiana	21	65.6	5 1/2
Chicago	23	60.5	9 1/2
Minnesota	22	57.1	10 1/2
Memphis	15	37.1	19 1/2

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	20	54.3	—
Dallas	24	66.7	6
Houston	21	55.6	10 1/2
Phoenix	24	53.1	11 1/2
New Orleans	18	46.9	16 1/2
Northwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	10	21.4	—
Minnesota	24	54.0	7 1/2
Portland	17	40.5	13 1/2
Utah	17	35.3	16 1/2
Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	30	78.0	—
Sacramento	20	64.3	4 1/2
L.A. Lakers	23	54.8	11 1/2
Golden State	22	52.3	12 1/2
Sunday's games			
Miami 104, Minnesota 84	95		
Phoenix 123, Toronto 105	90		
Atlanta 104, Charlotte 90	87		
L.A. Lakers 101, Charlotte 90	87		
Monday's games			
Houston at Boston			

Key Games

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W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	26	70.0	—
Indiana	21	65.6	5 1/2
Chicago	23	60.5	9 1/2
Minnesota	22	57.1	10 1/2
Memphis	15	37.1	19 1/2

Key Games

Through January 30 SCORING AVERAGE					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
	38	372	316	1105	29.1
	34	285	298	934	27.5
	41	359	333	1106	27.0
	46	440	320	1200	26.1
	42	382	228	1076	25.6
	41	392	201	1026	25.0
	41	313	270	997	24.3
	42	338	220	1066	24.2
	42	334	317	988	23.5
	45	402	228	1032	22.9
	44	375	250	1004	22.8
	44	308	304	972	22.1
	35	309	104	773	22.1
	42	343	171	921	21.9
	38	346	121	821	21.6
POUNDS PER GAME					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
	44	142	488	630	14.3
	36	144	294	438	12.2

Hawks endure different traveling violation

BY CHARLES ODUM

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Hawks have the worst record in the Eastern Conference. They might also have the worst travel luck in the NBA after a third straight weekend of flight delays.

"It's just weird. We've never been through a stretch like that," team spokesman Arthur Triche said after the Hawks arrived in Atlanta on Sunday afternoon following Saturday night's 84-83 loss to the Miami Heat.

The team's worst weekend of travel problems began Friday night when the Hawks tried to beat the bad weather by flying out of Atlanta following their 106-96 loss to the Miami Heat.

Instead, freezing rain and sleet already were causing problems, and players and staff spent seven hours sitting on the team's chartered jet, watching through the night as repeated de-icing procedures didn't get the plane off the ground.

Hawks guard Tony Delk said he listened to music on the plane until the batteries ran down on his personal music system. He said he then played games on his telephone until that battery gave out.

Delk, an eight-year veteran, said there were many times when he wondered if the game was worth the long wait.

"You have to be mentally tough," Delk said. "I'm not going to say anybody has been through this. This was my first time since I've been playing. It's our job, so you have to treat it as a professional and go out there and play."

Finally, about 6 a.m. Saturday, the team got up at its flight and players tried to nap at a downtown Atlanta hotel for a few

"We've bonded probably more than any other team in the league could have for this year. Thankfully, no one has gotten on anyone's nerves."

Arthur Triche
Hawks spokesman

p.m. EST, to give the Hawks more practice time.

In what Hawks coach Mike Woodson called "an unbelievable effort," the Hawks lost by one point in a game that ended about 11:30 p.m.

hours, still unsure if they would be playing Saturday night in Memphis.

At mid-afternoon Saturday, the Hawks headed back to the airport, having lined up a different charter for the one-hour flight. After waiting through another tedious de-icing, the Hawks finally took off.

The charter landed in Memphis about an hour before the scheduled start, and the team was given a police escort to the arena. The NBA delayed tipoff an hour, to 9

The travel complications, however, were not over. The team couldn't find lodging in Memphis and had to settle for a hotel about 30 minutes out of town. The players found the hotel dining room was closed, so the search for a late dinner ended at a nearby pancake restaurant.

The Hawks' return flight to a foggy Atlanta landed about 12:30 p.m., according to Triche, who said players were given a day off before a practice Monday morning for a home game that night against Orlando.

It marked the third straight week Atlanta has encountered travel problems. The Hawks were stuck en route to Boston for a Jan. 14 game with the Celtics because of fog, and in Chicago after a Jan. 21 game when the flight crew did not have enough members.

"We've bonded probably more than any other team in the league could have for this year," Triche said. "Thankfully, no one has gotten on anyone's nerves."

AP Sports Writer Paul Newberry in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Brown says he's staying in Detroit

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Larry Brown wants to remain with the Detroit Pistons through the end of his coaching career, the Detroit Free Press reported Monday.

**NBA
briefs**

Speculation that Brown was thinking about leaving the Pistons at the end of the season and taking over the New York Knicks began Friday, when he was quoted in a New York newspaper as saying that the Knicks' job was one he had "dreamed about many times."

But Brown said there was more to it than that.

"I told him what I'm telling you," Brown told the Free Press. "Did I say it was my dream job? Yes, I told him it once was. But they passed me over twice. I grew up in New York. I talked to the guy about that. I talked to him about Red Holzman ... I've never been smart enough to say 'no comment.'"

The Hall of Fame coach, who has three-plus years left on his \$25 million, five-year contract, told the Free Press that coaching the Knicks is not in his future.

"Even if they offer me the job at the end of this season, I am not going to go coach the Knicks," Brown said.

Raptors suspend Alston

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors suspended point guard Rafer Alston for two games on Sunday for his conduct at practice a day before.

Alston would not be paid and will not be allowed to practice until Thursday. Toronto coach Sam Mitchell wouldn't say what Alston did but said he needs to rein in his emotions.

Alston missed Sunday's game against Phoenix and will miss Wednesday's game at Indiana.

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SPORTS



Gooden eases Cavs' pain
with career-high 33
to lead win, Page 30

Starting a week of words



AP

Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said Freddie Mitchell's comments "were clearly a mistake. No one in this league would attack somebody a week before the Super Bowl."

Pats' Harrison responds to Mitchell

BY BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Roll out the steel cage. Or maybe just invite Rodney Harrison and Freddie Mitchell to the "Jerry Springer Show."

The WWE-style rank-out feud between the New England safety and Philadelphia receiver has gotten pretty juicy. It's even overshadowing the Terrell Owens will-he-or-won't-he saga.

Anyone who thought the Patriots are too well-versed in this Super Bowl stuff and far too classy to get involved in a war of words with the Eagles a full week before the big game might need to think again.

The Patriots are angry about comments last week from Mitchell.

The defending champions made it clear Sunday when they arrived in Jacksonville that they aren't about to ignore Mitchell dissing their secondary, particularly Harrison.

"When he says something like that," linebacker-lineman Willie McGinest said of Mitchell, "he's disrespecting our whole defense. Not only Rodney, but me and Tedy Bruschi and Mike Vrabel and all the rest of us."

That Mitchell has been an underachieving backup for Terrell Owens hasn't escaped New England's notice. Owens, side-

lined since Game 14 with torn ankle ligaments, probably deserves the spotlight as he attempts to get healthy enough to play Sunday. He still hasn't practiced, but has been running and no longer has a limp.

Considering how the Patriots might be gunning for Mitchell in the game, maybe the Eagles need Owens more than ever.

But even if the All-Pro receiver returns — coach Andy Reid said he will be evaluated daily — he isn't likely to be a focal point of Philadelphia's offense. And he probably won't get nearly the attention from the Patriots during their media sessions as Mitchell will receive.

Or already has received.

"Maybe he was drinking before he started talking," Harrison said, "because that was clearly a mistake. No one in this league would attack somebody a week before the Super Bowl."

"I'm not really surprised because you're always going to find one jerk out of the bunch, just like [Mike] Vanderjagt," added Harrison, who also verbally feuded with the Indianapolis kicker during the playoffs. "You're always going to find one guy like that who wants some attention and wants to do something to try and stir up the emotions of the game."

"I don't need any extra motivation; I need something to calm me down."

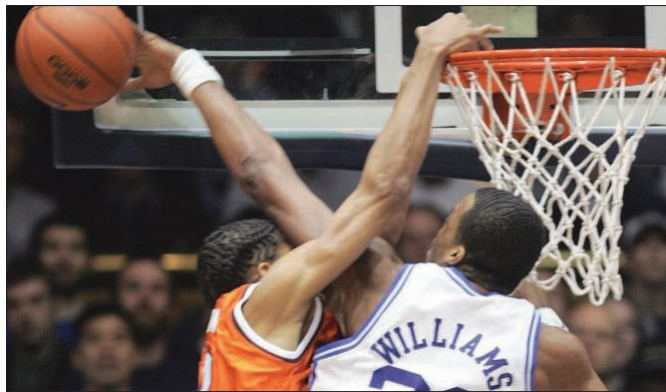
SEE WORDS ON PAGE 29



AP

Eagles receiver Freddie Mitchell will get a lot more attention from the Patriots after "disrespecting our whole defense," according to linebacker Willie McGinest.

Thou shalt not dunk on Duke



AP

Duke's Sheldon Williams rejects Virginia Tech's Deron Washington during the Blue Devils' 100-65 win. Top 25 coverage, Page 28.



Leonard ends dry spell
by rallying to win Hope

Page 26



Irwin takes Turtle Bay
for record fifth straight

Page 26

Kildow bruises back during downhill training run crash Page 25